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Hafa Adai!

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Robber strikes at 2 poker game rooms

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Surveillance cameras catch suspect wearing same attire, carrying same backpack, same modus

An unidentified man, carrying a backpack, staged a daylight robbery twice during a four-day period at two poker establishments on Saipan. Both incidents were caught by surveillance cameras.

The suspect managed to get a poker machine's cash box containing $5,231 in bills from Sun Palace Hotel's poker room in Susupe on Saturday at noon and over $30 in coins from Martha Retail Store's poker room in Garapan on Tuesday afternoon.

Department of Public Safety acting spokesman Jason Tarkong said yesterday that the suspect was described as a local male in his mid 30s with dark complexion and about 5'6" tall and 180 lbs.

Tarkong said in the Martha's Store case, the suspect was wearing a blue boonie/bush hat with sunglasses on top of the hat, a gray hooded-type sweater, checkered blue and gray shorts, and slippers.

The suspect was carrying an Under Armour backpack.

Tarkong said the suspect drove away in an old model white Toyota Corolla four door-sedan with tinted

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Surveillance cameras caught this unidentified man, carrying a backpack, staging a daylight robbery at Sun Palace Hotel's poker room on Saturday (above) and at Martha's Store's game room on Tuesday. Inset photo shows the suspect's get-away car. The suspect, who used the same attire and modus, managed to steal over $5,000 cash in the two incidents.

HK Airlines to begin direct flights to Saipan next week

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Hong Kong Airlines is the latest carrier that will offer direct flights to Saipan, launching its inaugural route from Chek Lap Kok Airport to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on July 6.

Hong Kong Airlines' entry pushed the number of major air carriers that fly to the CNMI to nine. Low cost carriers Jin Air of South Korea and Philippine Airlines Express launched their respective direct flights to Saipan from Seoul and Manila earlier this month.

See HK on Page 4

CUC, 13 affected foreign workers sue DHS secretary, others over CW-1 cap

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Sirok says CUC adversely affected by loss of CW-1 workers

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and its 13 foreign workers affected by the CNMI-only Transitional Worker (CW-1) cap filed yesterday a lawsuit in federal court against U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Charles Johnson, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Sarah R. Saldana, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Leon Rodriguez.

CUC and the 13 workers, through counsel James S. Sirok, alleged that the failure of USCIS to make a determination on the CW renewal petitions violates the Administrative Procedure Act.

The plaintiffs alleged that they have suffered a legal wrong because of the conduct of defendants DHS and USCIS in setting the annual CW-1 caps for fiscal years 2013 through 2016.

Sirok said CUC will be adversely affected by the loss of these CW-1

See CUC on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Ivan Ilmov was sworn in as the new president of the Rotary Club of Saipan in front of his fellow Rotarians at an induction ceremony at the Pacific Islands Club's Charlie's Cabaret.
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NATION
House Republicans on Tuesday concluded their $7 million, two-year investigation into the deadly attacks in Benghazi, Libya.
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WORLD
A suicide attack at Istanbul's busy Ataturk Airport Tuesday killed dozens and wounded more than 140.
PAGE 18

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Torres tells CUC: Fix leaks first

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres reiterated on Tuesday that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has "got to fix the leaks first," or its problem with its unaccounted 70 percent in water distribution losses, before moving forward on a proposed reverse-osmosis system.

"But if there is a whole plan to fix the leaks and then the RO, then my answer is yes," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* on Tinian Tuesday.

He was sought for comment on the issue a day after some House lawmakers and members of the CUC board butted heads over the RO proposal, projected to cost $160 million and financed through taking on debt, during a House utilities committee meeting Monday.

Board members cautioned though that this was only a "possible solution" to their problems and pleaded with lawmakers to help them address the central government's outstanding debt.

Also on Monday, a report from legislative fiscal analyst David Demapan surfaced on CUC's dire financial status and million-of-dollars in fines they faced from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for continued negligence in addressing vacant management positions.

The report, addressed to Rep. Francis Taimano (Ind-Saipan), chair of the House utilities committee, says that CUC's negative unrestricted cash had not been approved since fired former chief financial officer Matt Yaquinto gave a report to the CUC board signaling CUC's dire financial status.

Torres

"Vendor payments are being 'delayed' in order to preserve cash, but eventually CUC will not have money to buy fuel to run the plant 24/7, unless a significant influx of cash comes in soon. Many utilities have an average of 23 weeks of cash on hand at all times. In other words, the rule of thumb for CUC is to have a working capital reserves (unrestricted cash) of $40 million to cover a period of 5.4 months in advance."

CUC, he said, is also being penalized by the U.S. Coast Guard in the neighborhood of $6.8 million related to "clean up." Demapan did not elaborate.

Demapan also disclosed that CUC has responded to the earlier May 25 letter from EPA on vacant management positions.

"CUC responded to this letter and sent three candidates that were all rejected for the executive director position," he said.

"EPA was not happy as none of the candidates were even close to matching the requirements and one didn't even have a degree," Demapan added.

IN BILL CREATING POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION

Senate deletes provision to 're-negotiate' Covenant

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Senate last week passed a bill to create a second Marianas Political Status Commission intended to "examine whether the people desire to continue in a political union with the United States."

The bill, House Bill 19-2, though, goes back to the House of Representatives lacking some bite.

The Senate committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies notably deleted a provision "to re-negotiate the Covenant to attain a meaningful and well defined 'full self-government in internal matters' respected by the United States of America."

Senate sources liken this amendment to not throwing the baby with the bathwater.

Other than some other amendments related to public meetings and possible appropriations for the commission—other than the deleting of the provision to re-negotiate the Covenant—the Senate largely keeps the provisions on the commission's power and duties the same.

Among others, the bill gives the commission duties and powers to essentially examine whether the CNMI's political status is still favorable and whether other political status options like independence or free association are available.

The commission also is tasked with public education and hearings on the issue.

The committee's findings also raise issues with the lack of public attendance on the numerous public hearings held on the bill.

"After conducting a series of four public hearings; one on Rota, one on Tinian, and two on Saipan; the outcome of attendees on such a controversial issue is a complete disappointment to the committee as the passage of this legislation will be a detrimental impact in the political future on the CNMI.

There were discussions by the committee as to what other options the committee could do to reach out to the community in order to inform and determine the sentiment of the people. There were also concerns discussed by members of the committee to conduct another round of public hearings as many people have approached them admitting that they do not fully comprehend or misinterpret the bill and its impact to the CNMI.

However, given the immense responsibility of the commission to address critical issues affecting the livelihood of the CNMI, the committee has amended House Bill 19-2, HD1, to incorporate essential amendments to enhance the proposed legislation."

The Senate committee also deletes rights given to commission to meet in "non-public executive session," adding that they will meet in "open" and public meetings and may meet in executive meetings if authorized by two-thirds of the members provided that final action on matters may not be taken in an executive meeting.

The Senate also adds that "without further legislation, the governor shall reprogram" the sum of "not less" than $100,000 for the operations of the commission.

The bill is authored by Rep. Felicidad T. Ogumoro (R-Saipan).

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP16-GOV-146

UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE TANK (UST) MONITORING SYSTEM FOR THE GUMA HUSTISIA (JUDICIARY) BUILDING, SAIPAN, MP

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Victor B. Hocog are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors certified in the area of Underground Storage Tank (UST) Monitoring Systems for the Guma Hustisia (Judiciary) Bldg., Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project requires the inspection of the existing facility and monitoring system, recommended approach and type of system to be installed to meet regulatory requirements, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of a new, compliant, and fully functional UST monitoring system, including securing and compliance with necessary permits, inspections, and approvals from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ), and two-year maintenance service by a duly certified and trained technician.

The project RFP package will be available **Thursday, June 30, 2016** at the Governor's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The work shall be conducted by a CNMI licensed contractor certified in the area of performing work associated with UST monitoring systems. Prior to being awarded a contract, the contractor must have a current CNMI business license, worker's health insurance, general liability insurance, and workman's compensation insurance. The contractor must also demonstrate at least five (5) years of satisfactory work experience on projects with UST devices including monitoring and testing work in the CNMI. The contractor must also demonstrate ability to provide certified technicians, qualified personnel, materials, and equipment to complete the work. Certification of key personnel and technicians are required prior to being awarded a contract.

Evaluation Criteria:
Submitted proposals will be evaluated on a possible 100 point score based on the following factors:

1)	Technical Qualifications of the Construction Firm and Key Technicians Assigned to the Project	45 points
2)	Past Experience in UST Monitoring Systems in the CNMI	30 Points
3)	Technical Approach and Completion Time	20 Points
4)	Price	5 Points

Proposers are required to submit a cost proposal to perform the scope of work for reference only and will not be part of the evaluation criteria. The evaluation committee of designated reviewers selected by the Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor shall review and evaluate proposals.

There will be a **mandatory** pre-proposal conference for this project on **Thursday, July 7, 2016,** 2:00PM ChST at the Atrium Conference Room, ground floor of the Guma Hustisia (Judiciary) Building, Susupe, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM ChST **July 18, 2016** to Ms. Sonya P. Dancoe, P.E., Project Manager to the CIP Administrator, Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408. All responses to questions will be copied to other prospective proposers.

Sealed proposals must be marked **"UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE TANK (UST) MONITORING SYSTEM FOR THE GUMA HUSTISIA (JUDICIARY) BUILDING, SAIPAN, MP."**. For proposers within the CNMI, one (1) original and two (2) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Asencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 AM ChST **Tuesday, July 26, 2016.** Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposals by submitting a Notice of Intent. Notices of Intent must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 AM ChST **Tuesday, July 26, 2016,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and two (2) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Tuesday, July 26, 2016** and must be received no later than 10:00 A.M. **Tuesday, August 4, 2016** ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) firms regarding the contract requirements and evaluation criteria and selection made therefrom in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The Government is not responsible for any expenses which Proposers may incur in the preparation and submittal of proposals requested by this RFP, including but not limited to, costs associated with travel, accommodations, interviews or presentations, or proposals.

This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

All proposals received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ **Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor**
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan, Director**
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Senate pushes forward industrial revenue bond bill

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate on Friday passed a bill to permit the CNMI government to issue industrial revenue bonds to aid private sector development.

Senate Bill 19-74, authored by Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), allows the local government to issue an industrial revenue bond as permitted under Section 103 Internal Revenue Code.

The bond will be issued for "specified purposes" that meet "documented project priorities for economic development" centered on the creation of new employment, the bill says.

Igisomar

And it also permits the issuance of an industrial development bond to "leverage" the CNMI's tax-exempt status for the benefit of a private development."

It notes that the CNMI would not be liable for the repayment of the bond.

In a June 20 standing committee report, the Senate committee on Fiscal Affair states that after years of economic setbacks since the shutdown of garment industry, many efforts have been made to enhance the tourism industry.

"As we begin to witness the slight increase of our economic revenue, it is essential that the CNMI provide beneficial options to the private sector to sustain our local economy."

The committee said the passage of the bill would offer developers the ability to use the CNMI's tax-exempt status to avail of low interest bonds.

"As the beneficiary of the bond, private developers are also responsible for the bond repayment, therefore, relinquishing the CNMI from acquiring additional financial obligations."

The bill notes that in the 1960s, U.S. Congress began imposing restrictions on the limits of and use of bond proceeds, due to the loss of interest on tax-exempt bonds.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to our lovely daughter Alyson Red V. Camacho. Stay as sweet and good as you are. We always love you. Greetings from Mom, Daddy, kuyas, and ates.

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Harmonizing search and rescue cooperation in vast Pacific Ocean

SUVA, Fiji—Search and rescue experts will gather in Suva, Fiji, next week to set the strategic direction of regional sea search and rescue cooperation in the Pacific region over the next five years.

There is a moral and legal obligation on all nations to respond to any person in distress within their coastal waters.

This places huge responsibilities on small island nations and amplifies the need for international cooperation to coordinate search and rescue operations over the vast Pacific Ocean.

For example, in February this year, 13 crewmembers were saved by a search and rescue operation conducted by New Caledonia's Maritime Rescue Coordinating Centre after the LC Mahalia capsized in Vanuatu waters.

In an effort to strengthen such such cooperation, the four-day Pacific Search and Rescue Discussion Group (PACSAR DG) Annual Meeting begins next Tuesday (28 June) in Suva, Fiji, supported by the Pacific Community (SPC) and members of the discussion group, including the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), Maritime New Zealand and United States Coast Guard District 14 (USCG D14).

Fiji will join the discussion group for the first time. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) will also participate.

"This meeting is an important opportunity to identify the strategic challenges facing search and rescue in the region now and in the future, and to explore ways to address these over the next two-to-five years," the Chair of PACSAR DG and Manager, Search and Rescue Planning and Business for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Christine MacMillian, said.

"The intention will be to continue to strengthen the cooperation and capability between the Pacific Island Countries and Territories through the work of the PACSAR DG," she added.

The main priorities of the discussion group are to enhance regional cooperation on maritime and aeronautical search and rescue, and to improve and harmonize the response of Pacific Island countries and territories to people in distress at sea.

Also on the agenda is planning the seventh Regional Search and Rescue Workshop which will be hosted in Auckland in 2017 by New Zealand.

"SPC supports the Pacific Search and Rescue Discussion Group which is an efficient mechanism to coordinate efforts of the main authorities with responsibility for responding to distress at sea over vast sea areas covering most of the Pacific Island region," SPC's Deputy Director Transport, Thierry Nervale, said.

The meeting (28 June to 1 July) will follow the Day of the Seafarer—observed internationally each year on 25 June to celebrate seafarers.

The PACSAR DG was established following the fourth Search and Rescue Workshop held in Cairns, Australia, in 2011 to provide leadership for the development and improvement of search and rescue practices and resources in the region. ***(PR)***

ERRATUM

Tinian Entertainment Corp. is not a subsidiary of Chinese Strategic as reported in our banner story "ACG to start construction by year's end" yesterday. Its sole shareholder is CNMI Resort Development Inc., which is owned by Tim Chen. The previous shareholders—not the current shareholders—were subsidiaries of Chinese Strategic. We apologize for the mistake.

CUC

From Page 1

workers in its ability to maintain and operate its power generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Sirok asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to declare that the failure of USCIS to render a determination on the CW-1 renewal petitions for the 13 workers was unlawful, contrary to law, and in violation of plaintiffs' constitutional rights.

He sought the court's order to enjoin defendants Johnson, Saldana, and Rodriguez, and their subordinate officers and agents from implementing or enforcing or taking any adverse action against CUC and the 13 workers by not allowing the workers to work for the utilities agency and instead requiring them to depart the CNMI during the pendency of this lawsuit.

The CW-1 permits for each of the 13 workers expire at different dates during the months of June, July, August, and September 2016.

Sirok said CUC has timely filed petitions with the USCIS for a renewal of status prior to the expiration of the 13 workers' respective CW-1 permits.

On June 17, 2016, CUC received notices from DHS and USCIS that the CW-1 petitions were returned to CUC without a decision being made.

The reasons cited were that USCIS has received a sufficient number or Form I-129CW petitions to reach the FY 2016 cap; the May 5, 2016 was the final receipt date for CW-1 worker petitions requesting an employment start date before Oct. 1, 2016; and the petitions arrived at the California Service Center after May 5, 2016 and do not qualify for exemption from the CW-1 cap.

Sirok said seven CW-1 workers have been required to stop working for CUC and return to the Philippines.

The remaining six CW-1 workers will also be required to stop working for CUC and return to their home countries during the months of July, August, and September 2016.

CUC employs 33 CW-1 workers.

The lawyer requested the court to declare that the manner in which the DHS secretary computed the annual numerical limitation for CW-1 workers for fiscal years 2013 through 2016 was arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, not in accordance with the Consolidated National Resources Act, contrary to plaintiffs' constitutional rights, and without observance of the procedure required by the CNRA.

DHS set the CW-1 caps for FY 2013 at 15,000 and for FY 2014 at 14,000. For FYs 2015 and 2016, the caps were set at 13,999 and 12,999, respectively.

Sirok asked the court to declare that other defendants' actions were arbitrary, an abuse of discretion, not in accordance with the CNRA, contrary to plaintiffs' constitutional rights, and without observance of the procedure required by the CNRA.

Sirok cited the actions such as the failure of DHS secretary to establish, administer, and enforce a system for determining the number of CW-1 permits to be issued on an annual basis for FYs 2013 through 2016; the failure of DHS secretary to consider the comments and advice of the CNMI governor when determining the number of CW-1 permits to be issued on an annual basis for FYs 2013 through 2016; and the failure of DHS secretary to consider the adverse economic and fiscal affects and maximize the CNMI's potential for future economic and business growth when determining the number of CW-1 permits to be issued on an annual basis for FYs 2013 through 2016.

The lawyer also cited the failure of DHS secretary to establish, administer, and enforce a system for determining the number of CW-1 permits to be issued on an annual basis for FYs 2013 through 2016, which was not based on a method or criteria which encourages or promotes the maximum use of workers otherwise authorized to work in the U.S.

He said the DHS secretary instead used a system based on a method and criteria which provides priority within the CW-1 worker grouping and promotes the further use of alien workers employed in the construction industry to work in the CNMI for a temporary period within the Commonwealth over those CW-1 workers, such as the 13 workers, who have raised families and have been continuously living, employed, and working for the same employer for several years.

Last January, CUC and its 18 affected foreign workers sued Secretary Johnson and the same co-defendants over the delayed renewals of CW-1 permits.

CUC and the 18 workers agreed to dismiss their lawsuit the following month after the workers subsequently received approvals of petition for renewal of their CW-1 permits.

ROBBER

From Page 1

windows.

In the Sun Palace Hotel case, *Saipan Tribune* watched the video and observed the same suspect wearing the same bonnie/bush hat, checkered shorts, and slippers, and an Under Armour backpack.

The only difference is that the suspect was wearing a gray T-shirt. Witnesses said the suspect also fled aboard a white car.

Tarkong said police officers responded to Martha's Store on Tuesday afternoon and met with the manager, who reported the matter to the police.

Tarkong said the theft was discovered when employees were searching for the poker machines' master key and could not find it.

Tarkong said the store manager reviewed the video surveillance and discovered the crime.

Tarkong said investigation showed that the suspect entered the store at 1:19pm and walked into the poker room.

The suspect approached the poker attendant's counter and grabbed the key for the poker machines.

The suspect then opened three poker machines, but managed to get only over $30 in coins as the cash boxes in the machines were locked. He, however, caused damage worth about $500 to one machine.

Tarkong said the suspect walked out, purchased a drink from the store, and drove away aboard the white Toyota Corolla.

In Saturday's case, Sun Palace Hotel owner Shirley Kim told *Saipan Tribune* that the suspect came to the poker game room at 11:34am and pretended to be a customer.

Kim said when the suspect was alone in the game room, he opened one of the machines using a tool and removed the cash box and put it in his backpack.

The suspect, who was carrying a cell phone, then left at 12:26pm.

As a result, since the incident yesterday, only two of the three poker machines have been functional.

Kim said they discovered the robbery when one customer called the front desk when he noticed that there was problem with one machine as its wirings were sticking out.

Kim said they then called the police.

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help to solve the two cases.

HK

From Page 1

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion said a few more international air carriers will each have their own launching of inaugural flights to Saipan later this year. More than 10 airlines are expected to fly to the CNMI by 2017.

"These are exciting times for the tourism industry. We expect an increase of passenger load in the coming weeks, especially with the entry of another airline flying direct to the CNMI," Concepcion told *Saipan Tribune*.

He added tourist arrivals in the CNMI would further pick up in the coming months despite a 5-percent decrease in hotel occupancy rate based on figures from May 2015 to May 2016.

Asiana Airlines, Delta, Jeju Air, Sichuan Airlines, China Eastern, and Dynamic Airways are the other air carriers the fly from their respective destinations to the CNMI.

"We're expecting a few more airlines launching their inaugural flights this year. The Hong Kong-Saipan direct flights is also part of one of our source markets, which is China."

He added that the MVA is hopeful that Japan would soon follow since reviving the Japan tourism market was one of the plans that was discussed in last week's general membership meeting at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

CNMI tourism officials are also optimistic that through MVA's destination enhancement programs, the various hotel construction projects, and new restaurants opening up would attract more tourists—especially from new markets—to visit and see what the islands offer.

The CNMI's elected leaders and MVA board members are expected to meet and greet the passengers, which would also include Hong Kong Airlines officials, of the inaugural Hong Kong-Saipan flight. Passengers will be welcomed with leis and mwarmwars.

Hong Kong Airlines chief commercial officer Li Dianchun said, in a story posted on traveldailynews.asia, the launching of the Saipan service is their way of welcoming summer and offer more choices to passengers that want to visit tropical islands.

"Boasted with this new service, Hong Kong Airlines will continue to grow our route network in the Asia Pacific region, providing more flexible travel options to passengers from around the world and further strengthening Hong Kong's position as one of the world's major aviation hubs."

Hong Kong Airlines aims to target tourists who love water sports since the CNMI, especially Saipan, has a lot of beautiful beaches that has crystal clear water and one of the world's best destinations for scuba divers.

The inaugural flight leaves Hong Kong at 5:30pm on Wednesday and arrives on Saipan at 12am on Thursday. The Saipan-Hong Kong flight is every Mondays and Thursdays.

Hong Kong Airlines has an aircraft fleet of 30 composed of 11 Airbus A320-214s, six A330-223s, three A330-243s and five A330-343, and five A330-243F for its airfreight and cargo services.

The 292-seater Airbus A333 aircraft, which has 32 business class seats, will be used for the inaugural flight to Saipan.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the CNMI Alicia Limtiaco, extreme right, and ex-offender and book author Michael G. Santos, extreme left, pose for a photo with some participants in the training on reentry program at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday. Santos also trained selected inmates at the Department of Corrections in Susupe to be peer trainers on the program.

Ex-offender trains inmates, professionals on reentry program

The U.S. Attorney's Office, in collaboration with Diverse Community Outreach Coalition, yesterday worked with Michael G. Santos, an ex-offender and author of a book called "Earning Freedom: Conquering a 45-Year Prison Term," in training selected inmates to be trainers or facilitators about the reentry program.

U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the CNMI Alicia Limtiaco, in an interview, said they spent several hours at the Department of Corrections in Susupe yesterday morning, where Santos, who had served 26 years out of a 45-year federal correction institutions in the U.S. mainland, spoke with inmates about the importance of being prepared in reentering society, about authenticity, about changing behavior, and how to be productive and successful members of the community, among other things.

Limtiaco said Santos also met with selected inmates and trained them to be peer facilitators for the reentry program.

Limtiaco said after the DOC training, they then had training at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe with various agencies and organizations—both government and non-profit—who will also be either trainers or facilitators of this reentry program because they will work directly within or associated with the criminal and juvenile justice system.

She said the participants were court and health professionals, correctional staff, and representatives from non-profit organizations.

"This is a one-community CNMI effort. And having various sectors of our community coming together are very, very important," Limtiaco said.

She said all of the trainings are part of the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney's Office Smart on Crime Initiative that really speaks to finding effective and productive and evidence based programs that truly will provide a network of support to assist individuals who are completing their terms of incarceration.

Limtiaco said the goal is for the inmates to be able to reenter society and not be in a position to make wrong decisions later in life as they struggle, that they can continue to be productive members.

"At the same time it's a prevention effort because we are looking at helping those that are a risk especially our youths," she added. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Supreme Court won't hear Guam governor's tax refund appeal

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected a petition brought by Gov. Eddie Calvo's administration that challenges a court order requiring the government of Guam to pay tax refunds no later than six months after the filing deadline.

The high court denied the petition Monday, according to *The Pacific Daily News*.

Calvo's petition came after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed a Guam district court judge's ruling on the tax refund matter.

The case was brought before a Guam judge in 2011 in response to decades of delayed tax refund payments. The plaintiffs also raised issue with the enactment of an expedited refund program that they claim had favored friends and family of government officials.

Guam taxpayers had sued the government over alleged violations of a tax provision of the Organic Act of Guam and claims that the expedited tax refund program violated their equal protection rights.

In January 2013, Guam Judge Consuelo B. Marshall found the government in violation of the Organic Act. He ordered a permanent injunction for the payment of tax refunds within six months "after the filing of the claim for refund or six months from the due date for filing the claim for refund, whichever is later," court documents state.

Calvo's administration has argued that the federal government shouldn't tell them when to pay tax refunds.

FEMA approves $9M in 'hazard mitigation' grants

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announced yesterday federal approval of millions of dollars in grants related to disaster-recovery and resiliency as well as additional funds for the local small business program.

The Office of the Governor, in a statement yesterday, announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved last week four grants under its hazard mitigation program, a total of $9 million for projects that will reduce the islands' long-term risk and protect lives and property.

In another statement, the governor's office also said the CNMI would be receiving the second disbursement, about $3.9 million, for the State Small Business Credit Initiative after qualifying for this last February.

On the FEMA grants, funding is expected to increase upon the final determination of the total cost of Typhoon Soudelor's operations, the governor's office said.

The available funding requires a non-federal cost share of 10 percent, of which FEMA will pay for 90 percent to the total cost.

Seven projects amounting to over $7.8 million were submitted for FEMA review.

Four projects have currently been approved.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Specialist of FEMA Region IX, Lorena Willess, officially informed Special Assistant of Management and Budget, Virginia Villagomez, about the approved projects under HMGP last Tuesday.

Villagomez, in the statement, says one of the seven projects includes water system mitigation to harden water wells throughout the island.

This includes installing 12 emergency backup generators at 11 sites throughout the island to power 91 water wells, 11 generator houses, six sites to retrofit overhead electrical lines to underground, 209 concrete poles, and two power transformers.

"Six other projects are currently being reviewed by the administration to ensure its completeness prior to submission to FEMA for review and consideration. The CNMI intends to take a step to increase our resiliency by maximizing all the available funding that will prevent, protect, respond, recover and mitigate incidents that may impact our community," Villagomez said.

Approved Project No. 1—which is sub-granted to the Office of the Mayor for the Municipality of Rota, will address Rota's Office on Aging's storm shutters.

Project No. 2 will be awarded to Rota for the Department of Public Safety's storm shutter project.

FEMA also approved Project No. 3 for the Kannat Tabla Flood Control and Drainage for Phase 1.

"I heard the plight from the residents of Kannat Tabla about flooding, poor drainage, and road conditions after heavy rains. This is just the first step to alleviate this suffering. I appreciate the collaboration between local and federal officials on this particular project and the funding support from FEMA on the others," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in the statement.

FEMA Region IX Director Colby Stanton said that the approved funding would include preliminary engineering and design work, preliminary environmental studies and consultation, certification and acquisition of any needed rights of way, and development of a Benefit Cost Analysis to demonstrate cost effectiveness.

"If the results of Phase 1 indicate that the project meets the eligibility requirements, the project will be approved for construction funding under a Phase 2 award," Stanton said, noting that the failure to meet the deliverable of the award may jeopardize federal funds for the entire project.

Phase 1 will address concerns of hydrology and hydraulics, technical feasibility, cost-effectiveness, floodplain/wetland executive orders and compliance with historical and environmental rules and regulations, including engineered construction drawings.

The fourth project to be approved under the HMGP is for state management costs accrued during hazard mitigation for the Office of the Governor.

With a total approval of $9 million in aid from FEMA for the first phases, the CNMI should expect a total of $13 million in Hazard Mitigation Grant projects by the end of year 2016.

Torres expressed the importance of availing to and preparing for hazard mitigation.

"There have been many lessons learned involving typhoon preparedness, and I thank our federal partners for their continued joint efforts in support of the restoration of critical lifeline infrastructure and hazard mitigation," he added.

The purpose of the HMGP program is to help communities implement hazard mitigation measures following a Presidential major disaster declaration. Hazard mitigation is any action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards. The HMPG is authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

In February, the CNMI government surpassed the 80 percent threshold in disbursing the first batch of funds under the State Small Business Credit Initiative, qualifying the CNMI for the second tranche.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Treasury notified Department of Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman of the approval. "I'm delighted that U.S. Treasury has given the green light for the release of the second tranche. This wouldn't have been possible without the strong partnership we have with our participating banking institutions, CDA (Commonwealth Development Authority), Department of Finance, and the members of the review committee," said Rabauliman.

"I encourage our resident entrepreneurs to take advantage of this lending program so that we can continue to grow our small businesses, our economy," Torres also said.

In a letter, U.S. Treasury stated the Department of Commerce's request for disbursement of the second one-third of CNMI's SSBCI Allocation of over $3.9 million.

"Our office will begin processing the disbursement this week and you may anticipate receipt of funds within 5-10 business days," said USDOT Compliance Manager Danielle Christensen.

Department of Treasury Director Jeffrey Scott noted that the CNMI provided documents substantiating that at least 80 percent of the first disbursement was expended, obligated, or transferred early this year.

"Treasury will promptly undertake the necessary steps to disburse $3,910,287 to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," he said

The SSBCI began in March 2012 when the U.S. Department of Treasury approved $13.2 million in funding to the CNMI, an initiative born out of President Barack Obama's Small Business Jobs Act of 2010.

The CNMI Department of Commerce received $4.35 million during the onset of the program, which is the first of three disbursements of the funds. This second disbursement brings the total to over $8.2 million.

The objective of the CNMI's SSBCI Program is to leverage private lending to increase the amount of credit available to small businesses. The SSBCI provides federal funding to states and territories to strengthen programs that support lending to small businesses and manufacturers.

The CNMI DOC designated the Commonwealth Development Authority as the implementing agency for the CNMI SSBCI Program. The CNMI is currently approved for two programs, which include the Loan Purchase Participation Program (LPPP) designed to assist lenders, and borrowers in financing diversification projects enabling companies to acquire necessary financing that might otherwise be unavailable due to a cash flow shortage.

The LPPP can help shortfalls in cash flow for new or growing businesses with up to 40 percent of the loan amount.

The second program known as the Collateral Support Program (CSP) allows small businesses to acquire necessary financing that might otherwise be unavailable due to collateral shortfall. The CSP supplies pledged cash collateral accounts to lenders to achieve this goal for approved projects. This can help fill shortfalls in collateral required by participating banks with up to 50 percent of the loan amount secured by cash deposit.

The SSBCI is available to eligible entrepreneurs and emphasizes the need for a strong business plan. Passive real estate, business investments, gaming, delinquent federal or state taxes and reimbursement of ownership interests are ineligible for this program.

For more information, contact CDA at 234-6245 or log onto www.developcnmi.com.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

COMMERCIAL BUILDING LEASE SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

CPA-RFP-014-16

ISSUE DATE: MAY 27, 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY IS ACCEPTING SEALED PROPOSALS, SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (THE "RFP") AND OTHER CONTRACT PROVISIONS, FOR AWARDING A LEASE CONTRACT FOR A COMMERCIAL BUILDING, FORMERLY THE "FREEDOM AIR HANGAR" AT THE SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON SAIPAN, IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. THIS RFP IS ISSUED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 40-50, PROCUREMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS OF TITLE 40 OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (THE "NMIAC"). TITLE 40, INCLUDING CHAPTER 40-50-225, REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS, IS APPLICABLE TO THE PROCESS FOLLOWED BY RFP.

PROPOSAL PACKAGES MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LOCATED AT THE ADMNISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE AUTHORITY, DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS. A FEE OF $50.00 SHALL BE CHARGED FOR A COPY OF THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE . CHECKS MAY BE PAYABLE TO THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/S/ BY: JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman/Contracting Officer

FRANCISCO C, ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL Port of Saipan P.O. BOX 501055, Saipan MP 96950
AIRPORT BENJAMIN T, MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT Rota West P.O. BOX 561, Rota 96951
TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT Harbor Tinian Harbor P.O. BOX 235, Tinian, MP 96952

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB16-BECQ-134

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JULY 19, 2016 TIME: 10:30 A.M

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL (ROTA BRANCH) FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN,** DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND TO PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DCAA/NAP-139

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JULY 20, 2016 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"FFY2017 / 2018 REDEMPTION AGENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS - NAP OFFICE"

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THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DC&CA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP16-CCC-135

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 07, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF OFFICE FURNITURES AND FIXTURES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION"

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QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY E-MAIL TO ceo.cnmicasino@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JULY 01, 2016.** QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOE THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EDWARD C. DELEON GUERRERO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-OVR-133

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 19, 2016 TIME: 10:00AM

"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) iPADS AIR FOR THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION"

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THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARLENE KAY. A YAMAGATA, M.S. CRC
DIRECTOR OF OVR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Man gets 2-day prison term over fight with wife

An employee of the Aging Office accused of slapping and splashing a cup of water on the face of his wife at the Aging Office in Chinatown, entered a guilty plea in the Superior Court on Tuesday afternoon and was slapped with a two-day prison term.

Anthony Jack Ogumoro, 39, signed a plea deal with the government and pleaded guilty to the offense of disturbing the peace.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo accepted the plea deal and Ogumoro's guilty plea.

Govendo sentenced the defendant to six months imprisonment, all suspended except for two days.

Govendo gave Ogumoro credit for two days of time served.

It means that the defendant will no longer serve more prison term.

Ogumoro was placed on supervised probation for one year. He was required to pay $100 in probation fee and $25 in court costs. He was ordered to complete 40 hours of counseling with a focus on anger management.

Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda moved to dismiss the remaining charge of assault and battery as part of the plea deal. The judge granted the motion.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Ogumoro swung the cover of a trashcan at his wife and struck her in the face, causing her to become upset on Feb. 29, 2016.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato served as counsel for Ogumoro.

Police Detective Daniel Maliuyaf stated in his report that a police officer was dispatched to the Aging Office last Feb. 29 after receiving a call about a disturbance.

Before the officer arrived at the scene, Ogumoro and his wife, who is also a volunteer at the Aging Office, already left the area.

Based on the officer's review on the video surveillance footage, Ogumoro was standing at a table and writing something on a paper.

Ogumoro later picked up a cover of a trashcan near the front entrance door and attempted to swing it at his wife.

Ogumoro instead used his left hand in slapping the face of his wife. He walked out of the front door but the wife stood at the door.

The defendant splashed what appeared to be a cup of water on his wife's face.

A witness told the officer that prior to the incident, the wife asked Ogumoro why he didn't answer his phone and later asked who was going to take him. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PH consulate to hold mobile outreach on Saipan this July

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam, will conduct mobile consular services on Saipan from July 10 to 13 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Hall in Susupe.

The schedule for biometrics capturing of the e-passport applications is already available (please go to the consulate's Facebook page for the list).

Please note also that all e-passport applications require personal appearance. Please wear proper attire (i.e. shirt with collar). Applicants included in the list are advised to be present at the venue on the date and time indicated in the schedule. No show applicants will be cancelled. For more information and confirmation, please call (670) 233-6293 and look for Mel Santos. ***(PR)***

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Ilmov aims to connect more youth as Rotary president

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
tamanglona@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

THOMAS MANGLONA II
Incoming Rotary Club of Saipan president Ivan Ilmov, far left, is sworn in by Associate Justice Perry Inos alongside newly inducted officers and directors at the Pacific Islands Club's Charlie's Cabaret on Tuesday.

THOMAS MANGLONA II
Triple J founder, president, and chief executive officer Robert H. Jones was hailed as the Citizen of the Year for his numerous community contributions

THOMAS MANGLONA II
This year's Rotarian of the Year, Steve Conner, poses for a photo with outgoing president Curtis Dancoe.

Ivan Ilmov has been a Rotarian for nearly half of his life. His 16 years in Rotary spans from high school to college and now as a businessman in the CNMI. The owner of Bath and Ceramics on Middle Road came to Saipan with his family eight years ago.

On Tuesday, he was sworn in as the new president of the Rotary Club of Saipan in front of his fellow Rotarians at an induction ceremony at the Pacific Islands Club's Charlie's Cabaret.

"We volunteer our time, money, and connections to make good things happen," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

Ilmov noted that he and his colleagues are working to complete their Kagman family park project, which is located beside the Kagman Community Center, during his term.

He explained that one of his primary goals is to attract more youth to the nonprofit organization. The club currently has two high school organizations known as "Interact Club" established at Marianas High School and Kagman High School.

He said that they are looking to expand to Saipan Southern High School and private schools within the next year. He hopes to create a Rotaract Club at the Northern Marianas College.

"We want to make kids start to work and serve the community from a young age," he added. "This is my personal passion since I was grown in this system. My goal is to have more young people involved."

At the inductions ceremony, members also presented information regarding their recent trip to South Korea, where thousands of Rotarians convened as a part of Rotary International, which consists of more than one million members.

"Our goal is to make the place that we live better. This is an international service," Ilmov added.

Other newly inducted officers include: president-elect Tom Thornburgh, vice president Brain Clayton, secretary Elitza Stoilova, treasurer Norbert Sablan, club service director Laila Boyer, community service directory Sonya Dancoe, vocational service director Wendell Posadasnera, international service director Curtis Dancoe, new generation service director Sapuro Rayphand, foundational service director Pete Shilling, and sergeant-at-arms Wayne Gillespie.

Outgoing president Curtis Dancoe expressed his appreciation for his members and officers support during his term, which began with the destruction of Typhoon Soudelor. He recognized the communities' efforts to rebuild in its aftermath.

"We did the best we could with the resources we had," he said in his address. "We were able to utilize our funds to help the people in need…I had a great year and I want to thank all of my officers and directors for their time. We've had an increase in membership."

The club has a total of 50 members this year. Dancoe lauded members for their continued attendance at meetings, which he said has maintained a 60-percent attendance rate.

Members took time during the induction to recognize the Rotarian of the year. This year's recipient, Steven Conner, has only been a member for four months but has greatly contributed to spreading the club's mission and raising awareness in the community, according to Dancoe. "He displays the values of what it means to be a Rotarian," he added.

Triple J Saipan founder, president, and chief executive officer Robert H. Jones was hailed as the Citizen of the Year for his numerous community contributions.

Jones played a key role in providing direct assistance to feed thousands of residence in Kagman after in the aftermath of the typhoon last year. More recently, Jones brought Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. to the island, which employs 130 people.

"I've enjoyed every minute I've been here," he told the audience. "I enjoy starting businesses. I like to employ people… We appreciate all of the patronage we've had from you folks over the years and you can rest assured that we will continue to give you our best support. We believe in giving back."

The Rotary Club of Saipan meets every Tuesday at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Fee waivers for Tinian 'Cash for College' attendees

Individuals who participate in the Northern Marianas College's upcoming "Cash for College" workshop on Tinian will qualify to have their NMC Fall 2016 admission application fee and placement test fees waived. The waiver represents a savings of up to $75.

The free workshops will be held at the NMC Tinian Instructional Site (Room D & Computer Lab), today, June 30, 2016. The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and before the end of the workshop at 3pm.

In addition to the workshop, the college will also be conducting English and math placement tests on the following dates:

■ July 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

English: 9am-12pm

Math: 1pm-4pm

The aim of the "Cash for College" workshop is to assist students and their parents in maximizing scholarship opportunities that are available to students seeking to obtain a college education. The workshops are open to new and ongoing students, as well as members in the community.

Participants of the workshop will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) program, the CNMI Scholarship, the TEACH Grant and more.

Although not required, it is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid passport, birth certificate, or green card), three official transcripts, signed 2015 1040 tax form (2014 W-2 statements if you and/or your parents did not or will not file taxes), and/or proof of CNMI residency for 2014 and 2015 (e.g., CNMI 1040 tax form, employment verification from your employer, official transcripts, voters certification, etc.)

The free "Cash for College" workshop is made possible by the financial support of the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant program. This federal program aims to increase the number of students from underrepresented minority populations enrolled in college.

For additional information, contact NMC Tinian at 433-0657/0649. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Kensington Hotel Saipan's Vivian Guerrero, Kensington Hotel Human Resources & Customer Services director Sin Ja Choi, Northern Marianas Traders Institute chair John Oliver Gonzales, NMTI chief executive officer Agnes M. McPhetres pose after signing a memorandum of agreement.

Kensington signs MOA with NMTI to train students

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute last Monday signed a memorandum of agreement with Kensington Hotel Saipan detailing how both sides would be providing resources toward student training in the areas of hospitality and culinary arts.

Signing on behalf of the Kensington Hotel Saipan was Sin Ja Choi, director of Human Resources & Customer Service. According to the agreement, students will be hired and placed under experienced Kensington Hotel Saipan staff during their 230-hour internship requirement. Kensington in turn will also be encouraging current and future staff to attend foreign language courses at NMTI as part of their professional development.

When asked for comment on the partnership, Choi said, "This investment is one that Kensington Hotel Saipan is extremely excited about. We are on the lookout for dynamic individuals that enjoy problem solving and have great interrelationship skills. NMTI's courses are exactly what we need to groom potential applicants interested in the hospitality career." The signing of the agreement is yet another move in NMTI's program expansion efforts. NMTI currently has similar agreements with the Kanoa Resort, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. The current strengthening in the hospitality and culinary arts trades is in direct response to the industry demand. With tourism activities growing and the CW situation being a current constraint, Kensington Hotel Saipan and NMTI see this partnership as a means to curb the current strain on the CNMI's human resource woes.

"Ms. Choi has been actively engaging NMTI since the beginning. She continues to follow up on how we can get the agreement into fruition. Kensington Hotel Saipan is obviously making major investments in its human resources as demonstrated in their hosting of their very own job fair," according to Agnes McPhetres, chief executive officer of NMTI. Also on site for the official signing was John Oliver Gonzales, NMTI chair of the board. Gonzales said, "The visit to the hotel was exhilarating as the remodeling is extensive. The number of staff currently being trained is an indicator of how progressive they are in their steps towards the hospitality industry. We can't wait till the official opening of the hotel in late July." ***(PR)***

Regulators grant TEC conditional casino license

The Tinian Casino Faming Control Commission granted a conditional casino license to Tinian Entertainment Company, Ltd., a subsidiary of CNMI Resorts Development (CRD), during a public hearing held at the Tinian Courthouse June 24, 2016.

Tinian Entertainment Company, Limited, along with the principal owner, Chen Chien-Yeh, also known as Mr. Tim Chen, plans to acquire, renovate, rehabilitate, and rebrand the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, which is owned and operated by Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment, Limited (HKE).

The casino license previously issued to Hong Kong Entertainment (overseas) Investment, Limited (HKE) was not transferred to Tinian Entertainment Company, Limited (TEC) as previously reported by *Marianas Variety* on June 27, 2016. The casino license was issued to HKE was revoked by TCGCC during its special meeting on may 5, 2016.

Therefore, the conditional casino license of Tinian Entertainment Company, Limited, (TEC has a new license issued by the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission). ***(PR)***

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Guam/Saipan	**Hawaii**	$1,118.05	$1,198.05	5 days	30 days	SEP 16, 2016 - DEC 14, 2016 JAN 16, 2017 - APR 30, 2017	AUG 31, 2016
Guam/Saipan	**Western U.S. Cities**	$1,187.05	$1,267.05	5 days	30 days	SEP 16, 2016 - DEC 14, 2016 JAN 16, 2017 - APR 30, 2017	AUG 31, 2016
Guam/Saipan	**Eastern U.S. Cities**	$1,347.05	$1,427.05	5 days	30 days	SEP 16, 2016 - DEC 14, 2016 JAN 16, 2017 - APR 30, 2017	AUG 31, 2016

Ticketing requirements: Tickets must be issued within 3 days after reservations are made or at least 7 days prior to scheduled departure, whichever is earlier, but no later than August 31, 2016. The itinerary can include travel between Guam and Honolulu or between Guam and Japan. Use promo code FHB16B for fare discount. Requirements based on fare rules. Fares are subject to change.

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For United Airlines® ticketing agent, refer to CORE Reservations>Promos and Communications > FHB.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Brexit a global lesson

Great Britain's vote to leave the European Union sent shockwaves through global financial markets and political bodies. The British exit, or "Brexit," from the EU was a jolting reminder that when voters are frustrated with their governments, populism becomes a powerful political force.

In the case of the Brexit, many factors played a role. Terrorism, immigration and, some would argue, xenophobia — not to mention concerns over sclerotic economic growth — contributed to the decision by the majority of British voters to re-establish their national independence.

The heart of the Brexit vote, though, was a rejection of centralized, bureaucratic government and a call for a more accountable, accessible and localized government structure.

"Leave" voters disliked the behemoth EU bureaucracy in Brussels. As Conservative energy minister and Member of Parliament Andrea Leadsom explained during a debate over the referendum, "The truth is, 60 percent of our rules and regulations come from the European Union. As city minister and now as energy minister, all day long I'm told 'you can't do that, you can't do this, because of the EU.' … There are five presidents of the EU. Now, can anyone name them? And did anyone vote for them? No … and you can't kick them out, either."

Even still, the British political establishment supported the "Remain" position, as did President Barack Obama. But, as the Financial Times reported, "To millions of voters up and down the country, the referendum campaign has brought home just how little faith they have in Britain's politicians and parties, business lobbies and trade unions, think-tanks and investment banks."

By voting for Brexit, Britons will remove a huge bureaucratic overload. But warnings of economic calamity for the U.K. are plentiful.

British leadership must proceed with extreme caution ensuring that their exit from the EU is not abandoning Europe. In fact, the U.K.'s leadership ought to look to the example of Switzerland, which has never been an EU member but instead has treaties with it.

This is also a time of reflection for American voters who are now grappling with similar issues. Some of the campaign slogans, issues and rhetoric used in the Brexit electoral battle are eerily similar to the arguments being made in our own election.

Candidates in the U.S. should take note of the populist winds instead of dismissing or deriding them. Voters are frustrated because our government has become so big and polarized, and their political leaders are out of touch, out of reach and out of sync with their constituencies.

Brexit's greatest lesson may be that voters desire a government close and accountable directly to them.

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Fear drives Europe's populism

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*

DRESDEN, Germany—About 2,000 Germans gathered in the market square in this elegant old town to denounce Angela Merkel as a traitor — and to cheer Britain on for deciding to leave the European Union.

They were taking part in the regular Monday demonstrations of Pegida, the German acronym for Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamacization of the West. The Pegida crowd was waving the banners of Germany and the free state of Saxony along with signs saying "Thank you, Brexit."

I asked a group of middle-aged men in polo shirts, slacks and sandals, all workers in a machinery plant, why they were there. One said firmly, "We are against globalization in the world."

There you have it, the essence of the populist appeal to Brexit voters and members of nationalist parties across Europe, not to mention the Donald Trump wing of the GOP. Globalization, the technology-driven destruction of borders, has changed the Western world so dramatically and so fast that many ordinary people are desperate to halt, or reverse it.

Populist leaders know just how to play on these fears and to make promises to stem the global tide. The grungy Lutz Bachmann, Pegida's founder, who was just convicted in a German court of "inciting racial hatred," played booming music as he led chants of "Merkel must go" and shouted for Germany to quit the EU and break with the United States.

Then he focused on the main enemy: the roughly 1 million migrants and refugees whom Merkel allowed to enter Germany last year. Integrating the genuine refugees (and sending back the rest) will indeed be a challenge.

From Bachmann's rant you'd never know the numbers entering Germany have dropped dramatically this year and that city officials and nongovernmental organizations are doing a good job of housing and helping around 5,000 who remain in the Dresden.

"There is an assault on our borders," Bachmann declared. The machinery workers who spoke with me (none would give their names) said fear of migrants was the main reason they were in attendance. "We don't know what the refugees will do," he said. "Maybe there will be no more Germans, only migrants.

"We will lose what is good in Germany. The European Union wants us all to be seen as one."

The size of Pegida's parade has dwindled since its high point in early 2015 as Syrian refugees and others were flooding into Germany. Dresden no longer permits the gathering to take place in front of the iconic Semperoper opera house because it harmed the city's tourist image. (The opera house had mounted an LED screen in front that proclaimed, "We're not a backdrop for intolerance.")

Yet the fears of these demonstrators reflect similar emotions that I heard from voters in Britain — and have heard from Trump supporters in the United States. These same worries are being whipped up by populists in France, the Netherlands and elsewhere in Europe.

In Germany, the AfD (Alternative for Deutschland) party is trying to capitalize on these fears at the ballot box. The party has won seats in eight out of 16 state legislatures and is expected to win seats in the Bundestag in the next federal elections in 2017.

"You have a certain feeling in the population that something is going on and they have no control over their lives any more, so people become more nationalistic," says Georg Pazderski, the leader of Berlin's AfD chapter, who will probably be elected to that city's legislature in September.

"The people don't feel comfortable in an open world," he told me in his modern Berlin office. "We say we are the people's party. You have people from the right and the left who have joined us. We also have protest voters who don't feel comfortable with other parties."

Pazderski is an interesting case, a nationalist conservative and former career German army officer who worked for several years at U.S. Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Fla. He says he regrets Brexit and seeks EU reforms, which are certainly needed.

However, the AfD envisions a "Europe of nations," not a united Europe, which basically means the breakup of the EU. It appeals to those who dream of the past. (Among other things, the AfD also encourages women to stay home and raise kids.)

Indeed, as he notes, the AfD appeals to those "who fear for the future of the country and their kids." Yet its average voter, Pazderski says, is 40, married, has a good income and a good job.

In other words, those who endorse AfD and Pegida — the fearful voters — are not losing jobs because of migration. Similarly, the depressed economic regions in England that voted heavily for Brexit did not lose jobs to migrants (their industry

See FEAR on Page 11

Remembering the Battle of the Somme

By ROBERT GARNETT
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

One hundred years ago today, the greatest battle of the First World War began — the Battle of the Somme.

Hope died that day, and the modern age began.

The River Somme wanders through bucolic countryside in northern France, lazily winding toward the English Channel. The river's name is said to derive from an ancient Celtic word meaning "tranquil," and even in today's glossy high-tech Euro-world, the banks of the Somme remain quiet and rural, "flyover" country.

By June 1916, the war had been underway for almost two years. The allied French and British armies were preparing a major push to break out of deadlock.

During a peaceful week in the front-line trenches, a young English army officer reflected. Noel Hodgson was not a soldier by vocation, but soldiering was the duty before him just then, and the privations and danger of war made him both grateful and purposeful:

"By beauty lavishly outpoured
And blessings carelessly received,
By all the days that I have lived
Make me a soldier, Lord.

Hodgson was a youth of privilege, his father a bishop in the Anglican church, Noel himself an Oxford graduate. In ordinary times, he might reasonably have looked forward to a life of status, prosperity and ease.

Now, anticipating an assault on German lines a few hundred yards away, the attack that would lead to a breakthrough and the end of the war — so it was hoped — he contemplated his prospects soberly. "Ere the sun swings his noonday sword," he wrote, knowing the assault when it came would begin early, "I must say goodbye to all of this;"

"By all delights that I shall miss
Help me to die, O Lord.

On a cloudless summer morning, the assault began, surprising no one. It had been announced by a week-long artillery barrage during which 1 1/2 million shells had been fired, their concussion distantly audible as far away as England, 50 miles across the channel.

Promptly at 7:30 on July 1, the barrage was lifted and 100,000 British troops, encumbered with rifles and heavy packs, climbed from their deep trenches and advanced.

Within minutes, Noel Hodgson lay dead.

But not alone. By nightfall, more than 19,000 British soldiers had been killed, and an additional 40,000 wounded.

It was the first day of the Battle of the Somme, the bloodiest day of the First World War — German casualties were also heavy — and the bloodiest day still in British military history.

Despite the terrible losses, there was no breakthrough.

In the three days of Gettysburg, Union and Confederate armies together lost far fewer men — about 7,000. On Sept. 11, 2001, about 3,000 died.

But the Battle of the Somme was just beginning. Fighting resumed the next morning and continued for four months. The opposing lines remained virtually unchanged.

With the failure of the great offensive, it occurred to many that the war might never end.

Two years earlier, shortly after the war began, a young American named Alan Seeger had enlisted in the French Foreign Legion. In the fall of 1914 he wrote to his mother from France, "I think you can count on seeing me next summer, for I shall certainly return after the war to see you all and recuperate."

The Seegers did not see their son the next summer, or the summer after. Early in 1916, still in France, he wrote hopefully to his mother: "This summer will see the decisive campaign of the war. If we can break through … get them on the run, advance north, north … it would be the experience of a thousand years."

Seeger was irrepressibly upbeat and enjoyed the army. "This experience," he reflected, "will teach me the sweetness and worth of the common things of life," and "Never have I regretted doing what I am doing nor would I at this moment be anywhere else than where I am," he wrote after a winter in the trenches.

But like Hodgson, he assessed his chances grimly:

"I have a rendezvous with Death
At some disputed barricade …
And I to my pledged word am true,
I shall not fail that rendezvous.

Nor did he. A few days after Hodgson, Seeger too was killed by machine gun fire.

With the Battle of the Somme, the world of Jane Austen crumbled before a new age of machine gun and high explosive. Since the Battle of Waterloo, Europe had avoided a general war of all the great powers. Now, the century-long peace shattered, there was no going back to muzzle-loading muskets.

"Never such innocence," the poet Philip Larkin wrote of the world before the First World War: "Never such innocence again."

We too in 2016 might look back with similar wistfulness to the age before terrorism — before massacres at rock concerts, bombs on airliners and cattle-chute security at airports — and, 15 years after 9/11, wonder if the battle will go on forever.

In the Battle of the Somme, British, French and German armies collectively suffered more than a million casualties.

But even in the new age of head-shaking slaughter, every rendezvous with Death on the Somme was a solitary encounter. "Help me to die, O Lord."

We should grieve not for thousands dead, but for the death each young soldier died alone; for the "beauty lavishly outpoured" that Hodgson or Seeger missed; for the empty chair at the family table, and each heart mourning a father, husband, brother, son, or lover taken on a fatal day in July 1916, forever.

"The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;
Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,
And each slow dusk a drawing down of blinds."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why is the sky purple?

Many a youngster has asked this question. Some responses might be that it is a reflection of the ocean, or as NASA puts it: Purple light is scattered in all directions by tiny molecules of air in Earth's atmosphere. Purple is scattered more than other colors because it travels as shorter, smaller waves.

Wait, what's that you say? The sky is blue, not purple?

Well, if you are one in 12 men, or one in 200 women around the world that live with Color Vision Deficiency (CVD) or being color blind as it is commonly called, then you may see the sky as purple. The Job Accommodation Network states that, "A color vision deficiency occurs when cone cells of the retina, which provide daylight and color vision, are affected and there is difficulty distinguishing among colors. Typically this only involves certain hues, for example a red–green deficiency; total color blindness (achromatic vision) is rare."

My friend and I are known to play a video game or two; but whenever we play FIFA or other team games, we need to use a color and white. This is due to the fact that my good friend cannot distinguish between certain colors like green and red, or blue and green. Most blue colors he says are purple to him, and some reds are also purple (like the old color wheel, blue and red make purple). So to him, the sky and the water are purple.

Does being color blind qualify as a disability? An individual with a disability is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such impairment.

There are certain protections available to someone who may have color blindness. Some jobs may require that an employee not be color blind due to safety reasons; but, as long as the employee can perform the essential functions of the job, they can request for reasonable accommodations. These accommodations may include Labels, Prescribed glasses for color discrimination, or Assistant to identify colors such as a volunteer or co-worker, as long as the accommodations prove to not be an undue hardship for the employer.

My friend is self educated in many of the areas in which telling the difference between colors are now automatic, like knowing that the top light at a traffic signal is Red. Although his current job does not require him to differentiate colors, he uses his strategies to do so. With self determination and supports from reasonable accommodations, others with disabilities may be successful as well.

For more information about Reasonable Job Accommodations, please contact NMPASI at 235-7273/4, or visit us online at www.nmpasi.org.

Greg Borja
NMPASI projects specialist

Dreaming of a bridge connecting Saipan and Tinian

We have great respect for Mayor Apatang's efforts to beautify Saipan and make it a place even more convenient for residents. We acknowledge his accent on improving the local roads and his efforts in maintaining our road to a higher level of quality.

After the Soudelor Typhoon, Saipan looked so devastated. Now, it is getting more and more modernized in many directions. The streets are clean, the neatly set flower pots are seen everywhere. We like the flower pots in the places of respect like the Man'amko Center. The late mayor Flores' fountain (symbolizing eternity) and its surrounding look are great and attractive!

We residents trust our mayor and his team. He really wants to improve people's life. He and his team have initiated a number of projects targeting to have Saipan functioning even better. We hope the following suggestion will find understanding and support from Tinian and Saipan leaders.

A few months ago, on pages of this newspaper, we addressed our people to put their own money, time, and effort to build a bridge connecting Tinian to Saipan. This way, today's so-close-but-so-far Tinian would get really in-touch with us. People liked the idea and there were many positive responses.

We believe the two islands' mayors offices are the most influential hubs of our local and social and political life and they can involve the higher levels of leadership into doing this highly appreciable deed. We together can afford having a bridge at least, consisting of old pantoons. They float over the water and can be folded and put away fast when needed.

An affordable pay for passing coul dbe enforced and the bridge would be profitable. It can be owned jointly by two mayors offices or trusted private business or owned by government-private sectors.Bridge specialists can put their knowledge to create a connection preserving our islands' natural beauty and adding everyday convenience and dynamism to the agriculture, production, and transportation.

The bridge is so needed by the harshly divided islanders. Of the bridge, ties with relatives, friends, business partners, tourism, would get a strong and everlasting boost. Getting employed would get easier. It would save time and resources mean. Healthy competition between bridge owners and the air company also wouldn't hurt.

Dear Mayors San Nicolas and Mayor Apatang, please help us to have a bridge! Let the people name it Mayors Bridge! Tinian and Saipan leaders, please come together! Please hatch up a realistic plan to mobilize people's wishes and resources and turn the two islands accessible through the Mayors Bridge.

Teddy Guaio
Lower Navy Hill

FEAR

From Page 10

and coal mines were no longer profitable and shut down). On the contrary, those struggling British regions often received heavy economic subsidies from the EU that they will now lose.

So here we come to the nub. The appeal of populism is based on emotions more than facts, on fear of the future because the world seems out of control. "Take back control" was the motto of Britain's "leave" campaign.

But the populist and nationalist parties that are fanning those fears cannot roll back globalization. The "leave" campaign leaders are already walking back their promises to stop immigration and provide more money for the British health system.

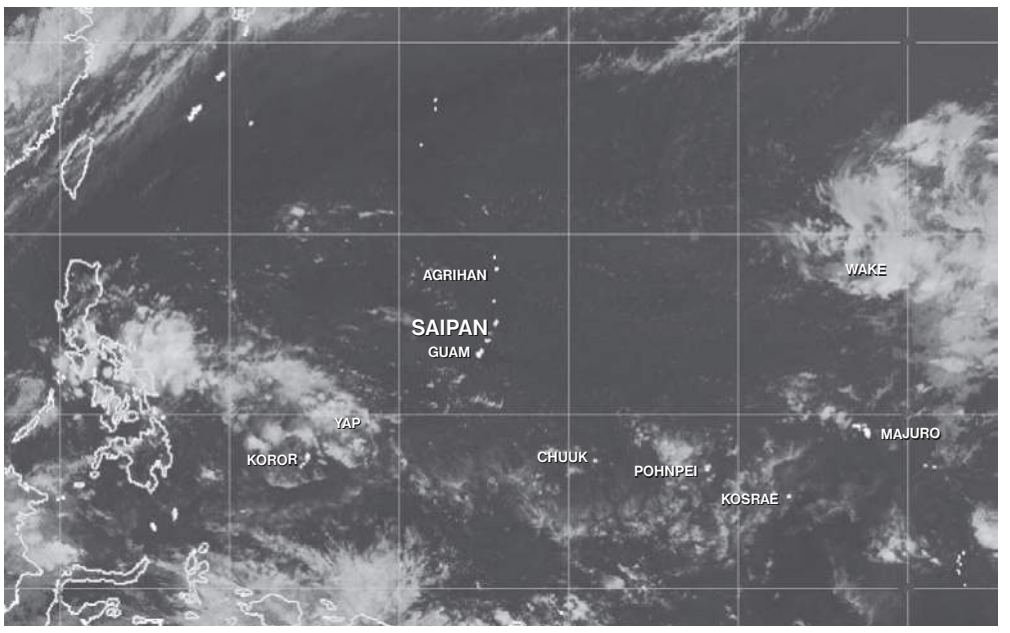
The populist pledge to "take back control" is a sham in Britain and elsewhere. But what makes it so scary is that, politically, it works.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲90° ▼80°	▲89° ▼80°	▲89° ▼80°	▲89° ▼80°	▲89° ▼80°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends east-southeastward from Mindanao through 7N130E to end south of Yap near 6N138E. Scattered showers are occurring north of the trough north of Koror and near Yap between 7N and 13N west of 139E, and farther to the south, south of a line from 2N130E to 2N142E. A surface trough stretches southeastward from south of Guam at 10N145E to a weak circulation centered just west of Pohnpei at 7N157E, then turns northeastward to end near 11N164E. Patches of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found west of Chuuk within 70 miles of 7n150e, and west of Pohnpei within 70 miles of a line from 9N154E to 6N157E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers east of Majuro east of a line from 10N178E to 2N173E. An upper-level low centered over wake Island near 20N167E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within an area bounded by a line from 20N162E to 25N173E to 19N180 to 11N172E to back to 20N162E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼82
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼80
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Rain	▲88	▼78
Kosrae	Sunny	▲87	▼82
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼49
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲94	▼69
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼82
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼72
London	Rain	▲67	▼58
Los Angeles	Clear	▲85	▼68
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲94	▼80
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲51	▼46
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼81
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼70
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲80	▼71
Paris	Cloudy	▲70	▼59
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼68
Rome	Clear	▲92	▼68
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼55
San Francisco	Clear	▲69	▼54
Seoul	Clear	▲83	▼69
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲82	▼70
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼62

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:05 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.03 Feet
10:17 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
4:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.55 Feet
9:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.89 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:45 AM	2:34 PM
Friday	2:36 AM	3:34 PM
Saturday	3:29 AM	4:35 PM
Sunday	4:25 AM	5:36 PM
Monday	5:23 AM	6:34 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 15, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA2922/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	10:35pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2921/191	1:30pm	8:55am+1	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2920/191	2:20pm	8:55am+1	2, 6 via GUM
UA2928/191	6:05pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2920	9:45pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	9:45pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2929	9:45pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:30pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:30pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	9:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	9:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	9:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Skywalker Communications head: We must protect our women, kids

Skywalker Communications Group managing director Dr. Hu Bo believes that there's still to be thankful for in life especially for the women and children. He said women gives life while the kids carry our hopes for a better future.

"This is why it is important that we do what we can to protect and keep them safe," added Bo, whose group is the main organizer and sponsor of the CNMI Liberation Day Festivites.

Bo added that we must be passionate about the protection of women and children. That's why he is fully supporting the purpose of local mixed martial organization Trench Tech Promotions.

"I support the purpose of the MMA and other similar sports entertainment program and the discipline of mind and body that it teaches. However, this is not the only reason I decided to feature it at the Liberation festival grounds," added Bo.

According to Bo, the Skywalker Communications believes in the protection of women's and children's rights and wellbeing. "Not many will help women and children when they are being bullied or abused so they must also learn to protect themselves."

"My hope is that they learn a few pointers on how to protect themselves through watching the exhibition last Saturday. All over the world, women and children are harmed by strangers, friends, and [sometimes] family [members]," said Bo. "We need to do our part to stop [the violence], especially here in our islands."

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang agrees. "We need to enforce the zero tolerance law on domestic and sexual and all forms of violence to the fullest extent. We need to have and implement an anti-bullying law."

"For the sake of our children, for the sake of our people, I am calling on members of our Legislature to introduce a law that will make bullying a criminal offense."

Apatang and Bo laud the efforts of the likes of Maisie Bermudes Tenorio, Kiki Igitol, and Cuki Alvarez and his family in dedicating their time and made it their mission to educate the community about the issue.

"Being a teen these days is not easy. Being a women these days is not easy too," adds Bo. "There is enough pressure to be like the ladies you see on TV and in magazines. There is enough pressure to be cool and accepted by others. You are constantly judged and compared."

"It is a stressful life. Being bullied and abused adds to that stress. Sometimes it gets too much that people become the violator or take the easy way out. We need to stop the cycle."

Alvarez, MMA organizer and promoter, shares similar views about bullying and the need for teens to learn the basics to self-protection. "There are lots of kids on Saipan that have no direction."

"They have no plans; some of them get in trouble fighting outside. So, when I created Trench Tech I had lots of kids coming and changing their lives by learning how to be disciplined, to respect each other. The people who learn our sport become better people," says Alvarez.

In 2004 Alvarez invited Kato Tetsuji, a Japanese trainer, to the CNMI to teach various MMA techniques. For six years, the duo continued to touch and change the lives of the youth on Saipan.

Skywalker Communications is looking forward to working closely with Alvarez to create programs that will benefit CNMI's women and youth and as well as create and promote more sports entertainment in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Skywalker Communications Group managing director Dr. Hu Bo, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, and Trench Tech Promotions owners Cuki Alvarez share the stage with Liberation Day Queen contestants and mixed martial arts practitioners after an MMA exhibition two weekends ago at the Liberation Day Festivities grounds.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Skywalker Communications Group managing director Dr. Hu Bo and Trench Tech Promotions owners Cuki Alvarez shadow box on stage at the Liberation Day Festivities grounds.

BIG employees attend CPR/AED training

SAN JOSE, Tinian—Certified cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) instructors in collaboration with the Tinian Fire Department conducted trainings on June 14-15, 2016.

Classes were held at NMC Tinian Campus at no cost to the employer and participants. CPR AED is a video-based, instructor-led course that teaches students critical skills needed to respond to and manage an emergency until emergency medical services arrives. Skills covered in the course include first aid, choking relief in adults, children, and infants and what to do for sudden cardiac arrest in adults, children and infants.

This course teaches skills with the American Heart Association's research-proven practice-while-watching technique, which allows instructors to observe the students, provide feedback, and guide the students' learning of skills.

Bridge Investment Group employees from all divisions were required to attend this vital training. "Considering the challenging environment and physical exertion required with construction work, it is only right that we equip our crew with the right trainings and skills to respond in the event of an emergency," said administrative staffer Melanie Cruz. Employees will be receiving their certification cards at a later time.

"Now that I have been trained, I am confident that when an emergency arises, I am able to respond. This will be my second CPR/AED training and a lot has changed since then. I am very grateful the company gave us the opportunity to attend this training. It's a win-win situation for the employee and employer," said security officer Ian Dela Cruz

Bridge Investment Group makes the safety of its employees a priority. Safety briefings are conducted every week by the company. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bridge Investment Group along with government employees and other private sector employees pose for a photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIG employees listen intently to instructions before demonstrating CPA/AED for adults and infants.

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Docomo Pacific signs lease agreement for new location

TAMUNING, Guam—Docomo Pacific and Marciano "Mark" V. Pangilinan, a sole proprietorship, jointly announced the signing of a lease agreement that would relocate Guam's largest telecommunications company from Century Plaza to the former Ben Franklin building in Tamuning.

"We are very excited about the synergy this will create among our associates and the convenience it will afford our customers," said Jonathan Kriegel, president and CEO of Docomo Pacific.

"This is definitely a moment to celebrate our better together spirit with the Pangilinan family and our local community."

A landmark that has been around for over 40 years—this is a historic moment for the Pangilinan family. While a number of businesses have expressed interest in the building, Pangilinan is excited that Docomo Pacific will now become the official tenant.

The new building has yet to be named, but it will encompass the Docomo Pacific brand.

Docomo Pacific is optimistic that in partnership with Pangilinan, the two entities will contribute to the revitalization efforts of this area of the island. Pangilinan is very optimistic about the impact Docomo Pacific's presence will have on surrounding properties.

M.V. Pangilinan Enterprises now has 12 months to complete the renovations. Docomo Pacific anticipates moving into the new location by fall of 2017.

Docomo Pacific is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT DOCOMO, predominant mobile phone operator in Japan. Headquartered in Tamuning, Guam, Docomo Pacific is the largest provider of telecommunications and entertainment services serving Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

With award-winning mobile, television, Internet and telephone services, Docomo Pacific is dedicated to bringing you and your family closer to the things that matter most. Get to know more about what makes us "better together" at http://www.docomopacific.com.

A merchant marine on board an American ship, Pangilinan arrived in Guam on June 15, 1946. With a borrowed $5,000 from the U.S. Navy-owned Bank of Guam, he established his company "M.V. Pangilinan Enterprises" and parlayed this seed of a loan into a conglomerate of business ventures—retail, automotive dealerships, insurance underwriting, service operations, publishing and real estate leasing.

Pangilinan is married to the former Guadalupe Torres, with five children, many grandchildren and great grandchildren. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jonathan Kriegel, president/CEO of Docomo Pacific, and John Pangilinan, owner of M.V. Pangilinan Enterprises, signed a lease agreement that would relocate Guam's largest telecommunications company from Century Plaza to the former Ben Franklin building in Tamuning.

NOAA continues to support coastal and ocean observing in Pacific Islands

The Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) was awarded more than $2.75 million in competitive grant funding through NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). The funding is for the first year of a five-year cooperative agreement to enhance and sustain coastal and ocean observing efforts throughout the U.S. Pacific Islands region. PacIOOS is based within the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Melissa Iwamoto, director of PacIOOS, states, "The ocean is fundamental to our lives in the islands. PacIOOS strives to provide accurate and easily accessible coastal and ocean information to help improve Pacific Islanders' quality of life through empowered decision-making." She adds, "We are pleased to continue helping island communities and authorities address both the short- and long-term challenges we face in the islands."

Guided by stakeholder input, PacIOOS will continue to support its implementation as an ocean information system. Through the collection of observational ocean data, prediction of future events, and as a resource for a wide variety of ocean data, PacIOOS helps to increase ocean safety, protect public and environmental health, and support the economy. Wave inundation forecasts, real-time wave information, water quality measurements, and other ocean and coastal information products are freely available online. User-friendly data visualization tools and PacIOOS' interactive mapping platform 'Voyager' also offer easy and open access to the data.

PacIOOS is one of 11 regional associations to receive funding from IOOS. Over $31million was awarded this year across the U.S. IOOS system.

"Ocean observing is a collaborative effort, and in order to build a strong, comprehensive national network, it's essential that we work with dynamic regional associations who are integrated into the communities they serve. It's because of regional associations like PacIOOS that the national Integrated Ocean Observing System is able to reflect the needs of so many diverse communities and industries who need observing data every day," said Zdenka Willis, Director of U.S. IOOS.

Regional associations address and coordinate local coastal and ocean observing and decision-support projects, which benefit the local area and integrate into the national U.S. IOOS. Providing funding for regional entities is a key provision of the 2009 Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System (ICOOS) Act, which authorizes the establishment of the U.S. IOOS. ***(PR)***

Coast Guard, agency partners to take part in Operation Dry Water in Hawaii

HONOLULU—The Coast Guard, in coordination with the Honolulu Police Department, will be participating in the 8th annual nationwide, multi-agency Boating Under the Influence education, detection and enforcement campaign Friday through Monday.

The Coast Guard will be on the water conducting boardings and educating the public about the dangers of boating under the influence of alcohol.

Operation Dry Water is a national weekend of BUI education and enforcement aimed at reducing alcohol and drug-related accidents and fatalities. Held each year during the weekend before the Fourth of July, Operation Dry Water is coordinated by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators in partnership with the states, the Coast Guard and other partner organizations.

The goal for Operation Dry Water is to significantly reduce the number of alcohol related accidents, injuries, and deaths among recreational boaters. Operation Dry Water directly supports a variety of objectives identified in the National Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Plan that focuses on reducing deaths and injuries nationally.

Boating under the influence is dangerous and illegal. Alcohol continues to be a leading cause in recreational boating related accidents, injuries and deaths. Alcohol is a contributing factor in 17 percent of all recreational boating deaths nationwide.

"Our primary goal is to educate boaters about the dangers of alcohol and drug use on the water. We'd like boaters to think twice before operating any type of watercraft if you've been drinking. This includes motorized boats, canoes, kayaks and paddleboards" said Ensign Brian Waters, public affairs officer for Coast Guard Sector Honolulu. "Overall, we want everyone to return home safe after a pleasant day on the water."

The NASBLA is a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety. NASBLA represents the recreational boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories. NASBLA offers a variety of resources including, training, model acts, education standards and publications. Through a national network of thousands of professional educators, law enforcement officers and volunteers, NASBLA affects the lives of over 83 million American boaters.

For more information about Operation Dry Water visit it on the web at www.operationdrywater.org or http://homeport.uscg.mil/honolulu. ***(PR)***

6 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged six Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites DPW Channel Bridge, Smiling Cove Marina, Da-Ichi Drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach Drain, and San Antonio Lift Station.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Business

EU leaders push Britain to leave amid post-vote turmoil

BRUSSELS (AP)—European leaders pushed Britain toward the exit door Tuesday, warning Prime Minister David Cameron that there's no turning back after his country's unprecedented vote to leave the EU and pressing for a quick and clear British departure plan to quell worldwide anxiety about the continent's future.

Leader after leader rejected Cameron's pleas for favorable conditions for Britain once it leaves, insisting there would be no cherry-picking of advantageous trade conditions. Yet Cameron frustrated them by refusing to initiate the divorce proceedings immediately, saying he would leave the departure negotiations to his successor.

"Everyone wants to see a clear model appear" for Britain's future relations with the bloc, he said after what was probably his last dinner with EU counterparts, adding that he "can't put a timeframe on that."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel dismissed suggestions that Cameron's successor might not start the formal EU withdrawal process because of the financial turmoil prompted by the vote and wide confusion about how to extract a country from the EU.

"I see no way to reverse it," Merkel said after Tuesday's meetings. She said this is not the time for "wishful thinking."

EU Council President Donald Tusk agreed: "Europe is ready to start the divorce process, even today."

Last week's vote unleashed financial and political turmoil not only in Britain but across the EU, the world's biggest economic power and home to half a billion people. The unexpected exit vote will rob the EU of its richest financial market, biggest military power and a diplomatic giant.

During the summit, Cameron sat at one end of the oval summit table in blue shirt sleeves, arguing for the best possible exit conditions for his island nation. Other EU leaders refused to negotiate, seemingly eager to kick Britain out as soon as possible to avoid further political and economic turmoil after the shock and emotion of the British vote to leave last week.

"We are not on Facebook, where things are complicated. We are married or divorced, but not something in between," Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel said.

In a special session of the EU parliament hours earlier, there had been cries of campaign "lies" from legislators regretting the loss of Britain, and taunting by "leave" campaigner Nigel Farage.

"You as a political project are in denial," declared Farage, leader of the anti-EU U.K. Independence Party. "When I came here 17 years ago and said I wanted to lead a campaign to get Britain to leave the European Union, you all laughed at me. Well, you're not laughing now, are you?"

When the traditional family photo of the leaders at the summit was taken, few were smiling. The common refrain at this unusual meeting was sadness.

Realizing the threat of a rift further tearing at European unity, Tusk said he was planning a special meeting of the EU leaders in Slovakia in September to chart a way ahead. German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged to use "all her strength" to prevent the EU from drifting apart.

Airport security fix: Better training—for humans and dogs

GLYNCO, Ga. (AP)—Covering their ears, 192 future airport security officers watched from a grandstand as Larry Colburn detonates a plastic-explosives device like the one carried by the underwear bomber in a failed attempt to blow up a plane on Christmas Day 2009.

A tremendous boom was accompanied by a plume of black and gray smoke. A wave of blast pressure ripples through the air, hitting the spectators.

Colburn, a former Memphis police bomb squad commander, tells his audience that a very small amount of the explosive, PTEN, can do tremendous damage.

"That is an eye-opener," says Betsy Bueno. "That makes you want to do the job."

Bueno is joining the Transportation Security Administration, the agency responsible for protecting the traveling public from terrorists. Many travelers associate the TSA with long lines and uncomfortable pat-downs. Critics say the agency gives the appearance of airport security without doing much to make air travel safe.

Screeners performed dismally in tests last year involving mock weapons and bombs being smuggled through checkpoints. The TSA suffers from understaffing, low morale and high turnover. Peter Neffenger, the agency's sixth and current administrator, wants to hire more enthusiastic agents like Bueno and train them better, and also make greater use of bomb-sniffing dogs as ways to improve TSA performance.

Since January, almost all new hires have gone through a two-week course at a sprawling federal installation in Georgia. And TSA recently opened a new facility in Texas to train more dogs in bomb detection. The Associated Press took a look behind the scenes at both operations.

TSA was built on the fly after the September 2001 terror attacks. Since the agency's inception, screeners have been trained piecemeal at airports around the country. Neffenger decided to centralize and standardize training at a former naval air station in Glynco that is used by more than 90 other law enforcement agencies. TSA said it spends $2,400 per trainee on travel and lodging for their nine-day course at Glynco.

"By bringing them here to the academy, we're sure that all of the officers are getting the exact same training, the exact same procedures," says Douglas Yates, who worked at Palm Beach (Florida) International Airport and is now an instructor at the Georgia center. Under the airport-based approach, he says, "there is always the possibility that some of the local things might creep in that are not proper or not according to the program."

There is classroom instruction on reading X-ray images, detecting explosives and other weapons, methods that terrorists use to conceal weapons, and handling hostile travelers. The heart of the academy is a fully equipped TSA checkpoint.

On a recent morning, two dozen candidates practiced screening people and bags. Classmates played the role of travelers carrying infants, using wheelchairs, requesting to bypass the millimeter-wave screening machines or presenting other challenges.

Nation

Final Benghazi report: No 'smoking gun' pointing to Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Republicans on Tuesday concluded their $7 million, two-year investigation into the deadly attacks in Benghazi, Libya, with fresh accusations of lethal mistakes by the Obama administration but no "smoking gun" pointing to wrongdoing by Hillary Clinton, then secretary of state and now the Democrats' presumptive presidential nominee.

After the long investigation, filled with partisan sniping by panel members, none of the new revelations highlighted by the House Benghazi committee in its 800-page report pointed specifically to Clinton's actions before, during or after the Sept. 11, 2012, attacks on the U.S. diplomatic outpost and CIA annex in the eastern Libyan city.

Four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens, died in the attacks. Allegations against Clinton were a main impetus behind the House Republicans' creation of the politically charged, Watergate-style select committee. Clinton testified before the panel for nearly 11 hours last fall.

While the panel's GOP members took shots at Clinton on Tuesday, Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., the chairman, summed up the document by asking "the American people to read this report for themselves, look at the evidence we have collected and reach their own conclusions."

In Denver, Clinton dismissed the report as an echo of previous probes with no new discoveries. "I think it's pretty clear it's time to move on," she said during a campaign stop.

Hardly—especially in the heat of an election. Republican rival Donald Trump, although silent on the subject Tuesday, has frequently lashed out at Clinton over Benghazi.

Nearly four years ago, the Libya attacks became immediate political fodder, given their timing in the weeks before President Barack Obama's re-election, and that has not abated despite seven previous congressional investigations. There has been finger-pointing on both sides over security at the U.S. diplomatic outpost in Benghazi and whether Clinton and the White House initially tried to portray the assault as a protest over an offensive, anti-Muslim video, instead of a calculated terrorist attack.

Republican insistence that the investigation was not politically motivated was undermined last year when House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., suggested that the committee could take credit for Clinton's then-slumping poll numbers.

Gunman shoots 1 at downtown Denver building; kills self

DENVER (AP)—A gunman walked into a busy downtown Denver office building and shot a person multiple times before turning the gun on himself, police said Tuesday.

The gunman was found dead when SWAT officers arrived, police spokesman Doug Schepman said. The female victim was critically injured and was undergoing surgery at a nearby hospital.

Schepman said the gunman targeted the victim, and detectives are trying to determine the connection between the two. Police have not released any names.

Officers went floor-by-floor to clear the Alliance Center, a building that houses several environmental organizations and provides shared workspaces. Other buildings were locked down, and people were asked to stay away from the area.

Nicole Arnone, who works for the nonprofit Rocky Mountain Institute on the third floor of the building, said she was listening to a conference call with earbuds when a co-worker tapped her on the shoulder and said, "We just heard a few loud bangs and some screaming, and I think we need to go."

"We debated whether to hide in the corner or run," Arnone said, and they decided to flee. She smelled smoke and thought it was either a fire or gunpowder, she said. Arnone spotted a shell casing in the stairwell as she fled.

Once outside the building, she ran away and flagged down an officer, who took her to a bus where witnesses were being held.

Jordan Peters, who works nearby and was having coffee next door at the time of the shooting, said she saw a swarm of people running from the area.

"They were yelling that there was a man with a gun, that there was a shooter," she said. "I got my stuff and ran in the opposite direction."

Office workers in the Alliance Center streamed out of a door with their hands in the air as armed officers secured the scene.

911 calls capture moments surrounding daughters' shootings

FULSHEAR, Texas (AP)—Authorities on Tuesday released 911 calls that capture the panic in the home of a Houston-area mother before she killed her two daughters, as well as in the home of a neighbor after the shootings.

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office released recordings of two 911 calls from Christy Sheats' home and one from a neighbor's home. Sheats fatally shot her two daughters before an officer killed her.

In the first call, a woman is heard crying, "Please! Forgive me! Please! Don't shoot!" After a scream, she cries, "Please! I'm sorry!" and "Please! Don't point that gun at her!" Another woman is heard saying, "I promise you, whatever you want," before the call is disconnected.

In the second call, a woman is heard saying, weakly, "She shot 'em."

In the third call, a neighbor describes 17-year-old Madison Sheats and 22-year-old Taylor Sheats, apparently still alive, lying in the street in front of their house. The neighbor describes Christy Sheats kneeling over her eldest daughter and shooting her dead. Madison Sheats later died at a hospital.

An officer killed Christy Sheats after she refused demands to drop her gun.

A Facebook profile consistent with Sheats' biographical details included a pro-gun post, alongside posts about how much she loved members of her family.

Asia

Singapore website founder jailed for anti-foreign content

SINGAPORE (AP)—A court in Singapore on Tuesday sentenced the founder of a website that published anti-foreign content to eight months in jail after he pleaded guilty to sedition.

Yang Kaiheng, 27, set up "The Real Singapore" website together with his Australian wife, Ai Takagi, and helped distribute accounts from visitors, some of which contained inaccuracies, the court said.

One post alleged that foreigners in a multinational corporation were favoring their countrymen for jobs over Singaporeans. Another contribution detailed how a husband's affair with a Chinese citizen broke up a family.

Although these posts were not viewed as inaccurate, the court said they violated the Sedition Act, used to deter inhabitants from promoting hostility in the multicultural city-state.

Takagi was convicted of similar charges and started serving a 10-month sentence from April, the harshest ever imposed under the act. She admitted to the role of editor and using a false male identity to post fictitious stories of obnoxious foreigners.

Yang distanced himself from the website's content during much of the trial, saying he was not involved in editing or approving it before abruptly pleading guilty to six counts of sedition last Friday.

District Judge Chay Yuen Fatt said the website was the "exploitation of such (nationalistic) feelings, purely for financial gain and not for noble ideologies, misguided or otherwise."

It was "the brainchild of the accused" and he encouraged Takagi to "kick up a storm on the internet so as to generate more revenue," the judge said.

The website had close to 13 million views a month and its readership reacted with anger, with some calling for harsh curbs on foreigners, court documents said. From December 2013 to April 2015, the website reportedly had revenue, mostly from advertising, of close to 474,600 Australian dollars ($351,750).

Yang, who owns two ramen shops with Takagi, was expressionless and looked straight ahead as the sentence was dealt. He is expected to start serving his jail term next month.

Sluggish economy casts shadow over Mongolians elections

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia (AP)—Mongolians vote in parliamentary elections Wednesday with sentiment weighed by a sharp downturn in the landlocked Asian nation's crucial mining sector, rising unemployment and political disillusionment.

The Democratic Party could lose its majority in parliament, known as the State Great Khural, to the opposition Mongolian People's Party a year ahead of the 2017 presidential election. But with no major policy offerings on the table and an economy pummeled by the global slump in commodity prices, it's unclear what options Mongolia has for reviving its fortunes.

The parliamentary elections are the seventh since the country made a peaceful transition to democracy in 1990. Yet disillusionment with the political process in the country—recently dubbed "an oasis of democracy" by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry—is growing among younger voters, whose turnout has steadily declined in recent years.

Amgalan Sukh-Ochir, 30, who works in marketing, said he plans to boycott the elections.

"In the last elections when the DP made all these great promises for prospering, I decided to support them, but look where we are now. I don't think they've achieved much," he said.

Mongolia's mining- and animal herding-dependent economy has been dragged down by weak domestic demand and a sharp decline in exports, impoverishing thousands of former herders who had moved to its few cities looking for jobs. Economic growth has slipped from 17.5 percent in 2011 to just 2.3 percent last year in the resource-rich nation of 3 million people, one-fifth of whom live in poverty.

Both the ruling Democratic Party and its main rival have campaigned on the promise of more jobs.

"The main issue is, No. 1, to revive the economy," said Bulgantuya Khurelbaatar, secretary of the opposition Mongolian People's Party. She said the party aims to build 100 factories in 21 provinces that would create about 40,000 new jobs, though she didn't say how.

It's unclear what measures or resources are available to stimulate the flagging economy.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Australian opposition leader shifts position on gay marriage

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's opposition leader has explained his shift on gay marriage, which will be a key issue in elections this weekend. The center-left Labor Party opposes the conservative government's plan to hold a plebiscite this year to allow the public a direct say on whether Australia should give legal recognition to same-sex marriage. Opposition leader Bill Shorten confirmed a newspaper report Wednesday that he had told Christian church leaders in 2013 that he supported such a plebiscite.

Wreckage of lost Thai air force helicopter found with 3 dead

BANGKOK (AP)—Searchers in Thailand have found the wreckage of an air force helicopter missing since Saturday and the bodies of the three crewmen who were on board. Air Chief Marshal Suttipong Inseeyong said the wreckage was found Tuesday by searchers on a mountainside in a national park straddling the eastern provinces of Rayong and Chanthaburi. The Bell UH-1helicopter was on a mission to supply a radar station near where the wreckage was found. The cause of the crash has not been determined.

Vietnam recovers 8 bodies from missing search plane

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam's military says the bodies of eight crew from a search plane that crashed two weeks ago while looking for a missing fighter jet have been recovered. The Ministry of Defense said Wednesday that authorities are still searching for the remaining military person from the plane. The ministry said that maritime patrol aircraft's black boxes, which recorded voice in the cabin and flight data, have been recovered and are being analyzed to try to determine the cause of the crash.

World

Suspected IS suicide bombers kill dozens at Istanbul airport

AP

Passengers embrace each other at the entrance to Istanbul's Ataturk airport, early Wednesday, June 29, 2016 following their evacuation after a blast.

ISTANBUL (AP)—A suicide attack at Istanbul's busy Ataturk Airport Tuesday killed dozens and wounded more than 140 as Turkish officials blamed the carnage at the international terminal on three suspected Islamic State group militants.

Hundreds of frightened passengers streamed out of the airport, fleeing the latest of several bombings to strike Turkey in recent months. The attacks have increased in scale and frequency, scaring off tourists and hurting the Turkish economy, which relies heavily on tourism.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said 36 were dead as well as the three suicide bombers. Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag said 147 were wounded. Another senior government official told The Associated Press the death toll could climb much higher.

The senior official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government protocol, at first said close to 50 people had already died, but later said that the figure was expected to rise to close to 50.

Yildirim said three suicide bombers were responsible for the attack and all initial indications suggest the Islamic State group was behind it.

"The findings of our security forces point at the Daesh organization as the perpetrators of this terror attack," Yildirim told reporters at the airport, using the Arabic name for IS. "Even though the indications suggest Daesh, our investigations are continuing."

Yildirim said the attackers arrived at the airport in a taxi and blew themselves up after opening fire. Asked whether a fourth attacker might have escaped, he said authorities have no such assessment but are considering every possibility.

The victims included some foreigners, he said, adding that many of the wounded have minor injuries but others are more badly hurt.

Another Turkish official said two of the attackers detonated explosives at the entrance of the international arrivals terminal after police fired at them, while the third blew himself up in the parking lot.

The official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government regulations and cited interior ministry information, said none of the attackers managed to get past security checks at the terminal's entrance.

Suicide bombings in Turkey since July 2015

ISTANBUL (AP)—A look at the suicide bombings in Turkey since July 2015:

■ **June 28, 2016:** Suicide attackers killed at least 36 people and wounded more than 140 at Istanbul's busy Ataturk Airport. Turkish officials said the explosions were probably the work of Islamic State group militants.

■ **March 19, 2016:** A suicide bombing rocked Istanbul's main pedestrian street killing five people, including the bomber, whom authorities identified as a Turkish national linked to IS. Like in the prior attacks blamed on IS, there was no claim of responsibility from the group.

■ **March 13, 2016:** A Kurdish woman blew herself up in a car at a busy transport hub in Ankara, killing 37 people in an attack that was also claimed by TAK, also known as the Kurdish Freedom Falcons.

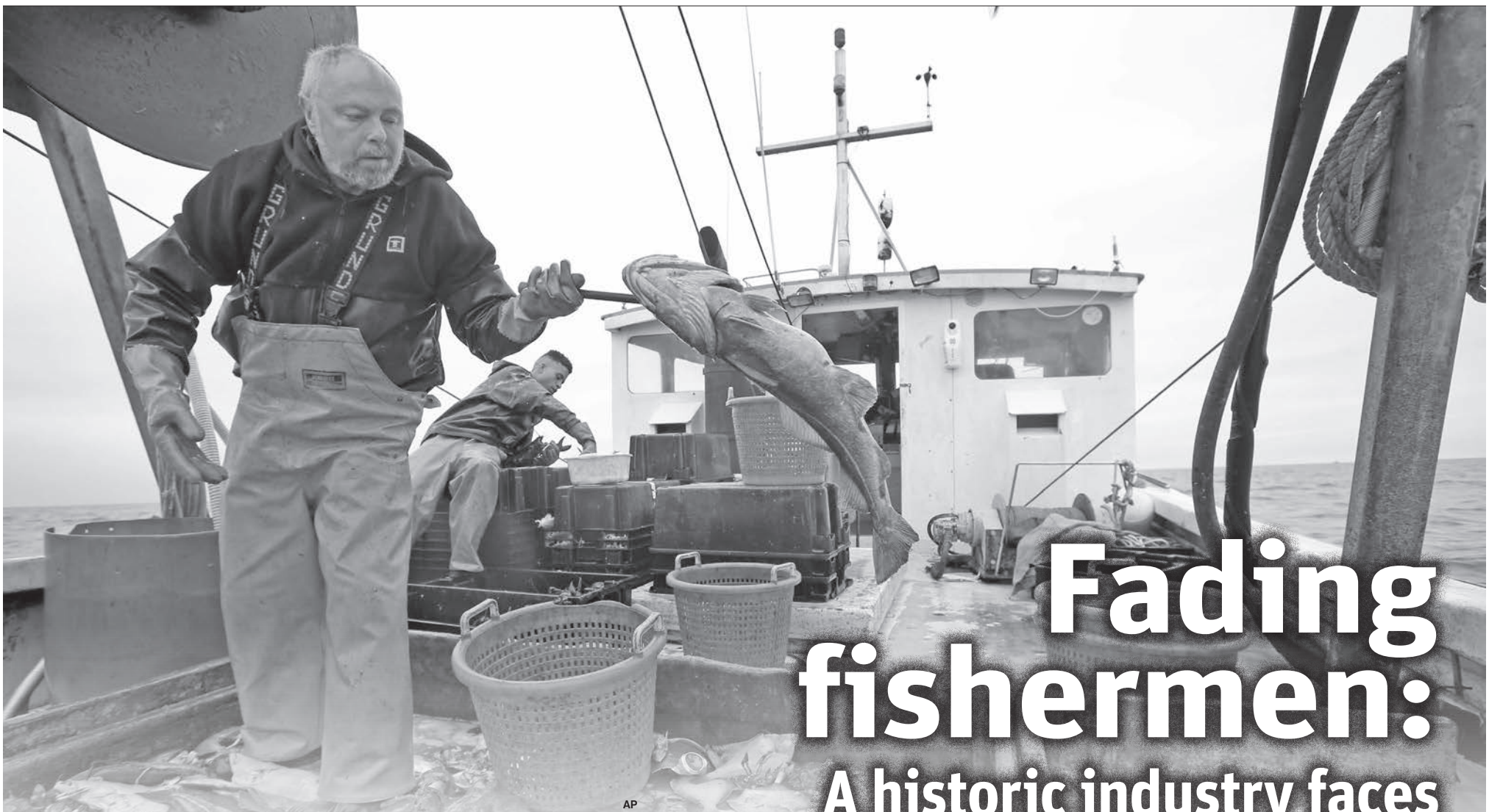
■ **Feb. 17, 2016:** A suicide car bomb apparently targeting military personnel in Ankara killed 29 people in an attack claimed by TAK, an off-shoot of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, which Turkey considers a terrorist organization.

■ **Jan. 12, 2016:** A suicide bomber blew himself up in the historic district of Istanbul, killing 12 German tourists. Authorities said the attack was carried out by an IS-linked Syrian man who had entered the country as a refugee.

■ **Oct. 10, 2015:** Twin suicide bombings hit a peace rally outside Ankara's train station, killing 102 people. There was no claim of responsibility but Turkish authorities blamed the attack on a local cell of IS.

■ **July 20, 2015:** A Turkish national who was an ethnic Kurd blew himself up in in the southern border town of Suruc, killing 33 mostly-Kurdish activists and wounding nearly 100 others in an attack authorities blamed on the Islamic State group.

Environment



AP

In this April 23, 2016, photo, David Goethel flips a cod while sorting ground fish caught off the coast of New Hampshire. To Goethel, cod represents his identity, his ticket to middle class life, and his link to one the country's most historic industries, a fisherman who has caught New England's most recognized fish for more than 30 years.

Fading fishermen:

A historic industry faces a warming world

By PATRICK WHITTLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEABROOK, N.H. (AP)—The cod isn't just a fish to David Goethel. It's his identity, his ticket to middle-class life, his link to a historic industry.

"I paid for my education, my wife's education, my house, my kids' education; my slice of America was paid for on cod," said Goethel, a 30-year veteran of these waters that once teemed with New England's signature fish.

But on this chilly, windy Saturday in April, after 12 hours out in the Gulf of Maine, he has caught exactly two cod, and he feels far removed from the 1990s, when he could catch 2,000 pounds of the fish in a day.

Fishing along the coast of the Northeast still employs hundreds. But every month that goes by, those numbers fall. After centuries of weathering overfishing, pollution, foreign competition and increasing government regulation, the latest challenge is the one that's doing them in: climate change.

Though no waters are immune to the ravages of climate change, the Gulf of Maine best illustrates the problem. The gulf, where fishermen have for centuries sought lobster, cod and other species that thrived in its cold waters, is now warming faster than 99 percent of the world's oceans, scientists have said.

For the fishermen of the northeastern U.S., whether to stick with fishing, adapt to the changing ocean or leave the business is a constant worry.

WAVING THE WHITE FLAG

Robert Bradfield was one of the East Coast's most endangered species, a Rhode Island lobsterman, until he pulled his traps out of the water for the last time about a decade ago.

He now works on a pilot boat, guiding larger ships in and out of the harbor. He is glad he's still on the water, but he misses lobstering and the community of fishermen he used to see in Newport.

"Of all the guys I fished with, I was a lobsterman for 30 years, and there's maybe three left," he said.

The number of adult lobsters in New England south of Cape Cod slid to about 10 million in 2013, according to a report issued last year by an interstate regulatory board. It was about 50 million in the late 1990s. The lobster catch in the region sank to about 3.3 million pounds in 2013, from a peak of about 22 million in 1997.

Bradfield, a father to three grown children, said his decision was more about economics than science. He is glad he left the business, as painful as it was to leave a piece of his identity behind.

"There's a saying: Behind every successful fisherman is a wife with a good job," he said.

HANGING ON, GETTING BY

David Goethel has spent most of his life fishing for cod, and he doesn't want to stop now.

"I could catch the entire quota for the Gulf of Maine in eight days," Goethel said in a bit of bravado he swears is not an exaggeration. "I wouldn't break a sweat doing it."

He operates a trawler that leaves from New Hampshire. But the catch these days is different; with cod in jeopardy and catch quotas at all-time lows, he tries to eke out a living by supplementing cod with just about anything else.

Retirement isn't in the cards for the 62-year-old Goethel—at least, not soon.

The challenges climate change have brought to commercial fishing are perhaps most noticeable in New England's cod fishery, which has dwindled from more than 1,200 boats in the 1980s to only a few dozen today. In that time, the catch of cod has plummeted from more than 117 million pounds in 1980 to just over 5 million in 2014.

Goethel, also a marine scientist, doesn't bemoan the ocean's changing temperature as much as the rules he must play by. Because of tight quotas, he must avoid fishing around areas where cod live, he said.

The changes have been difficult emotionally for Goethel, whose sons, Daniel and Eric, are a fisheries biologist and a tugboat captain. Old traditions are hard to part with.

"Eric would get rolled out of bed to go fishing," Ellen said. "He did the same thing to me."

AP

In this Thursday, May 19, 2016 photo, Mike Mohr, captain of the fishing vessel E.S.S. *Pursuit*, cradles quahog clams on the deck of his ship while offloading a two-day haul at a dock in New Bedford, Mass.

ADAPTING, COMMUTING

Michael Mohr harvested surf clams for almost 30 of his 55 years, and his desire to stay in the business takes him far from his family.

About 10 years ago, he started commuting from Mays Landing, New Jersey, six hours each way to the former whaling port of New Bedford, Massachusetts. He has also switched clam species; he got his start fishing for Atlantic surf clams but now pursues the ocean quahog.

"We're finding clams in deeper water instead of inshore water, where we used to work 25 years ago," Mohr said.

Whether Mohr can make holidays like Thanksgiving is "hit-and-miss," said his wife, Melanie.

Mohr is undaunted. Clamming has been good to him, and if he has to spend more time on the road as he nears 60, so be it.

"It's just a way of life," Mohr said. "You've got to go where the money is at, and you're happy. Right now, I'm happy."

Life & Style

Suge Knight's defense in murder case previewed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Toi-Lin Kelly has known Marion "Suge" Knight for 11 years, and says the former rap music mogul is nothing like the fearsome reputation associated with him from his heyday at the helm of the influential gangster rap label Death Row Records.

Knight, jailed on murder and attempted murder charges after he ran over two men with his pickup truck last year, is a caring father and devoted family man, who at age 51 remains a "momma's boy," says Kelly, who's engaged to Knight and has a 6-year-old son with him.

"People forget that he's human, and he has people who love him and has a family and a lot of people who root for him," she told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview alongside Knight's new legal team, J. Tooson and Jeremy Lessem. Knight himself is not permitted to speak publicly.

The session, held recently at the attorneys' suburban offices, offered a preview of their defense of the former mogul, including a detailed account of the time leading up to a violent confrontation that ended when Knight ran over the two men, killing one, outside a Compton burger stand in January 2015.

It is the latest allegation of violence against Knight, a two-time convicted felon and inextricably linked to the violence of the 1990s rap scene.

Knight faces up to life in prison if convicted in the murder case, but Tooson and Lessem say he was fleeing an ambush and didn't realize until later that he had run over and killed Terry Carter, a Compton businessman who was attempting to resolve a dispute between Knight and the makers of "Straight Outta Compton." The attorneys say Knight was expecting to have a meeting with Carter about receiving payment for the use of his likeness in last year's highly successful biopic of the pioneering gangster rap group N.W.A.

Kelly says Knight had no idea there would be trouble, and planned to join her and their son at an arcade restaurant to play video games after meeting with Carter. She says Knight was extremely close to his son, taking him to school each day and helping him play with a new scooter before heading to Compton that fateful day.

Upon arrival, Knight was confronted by several armed men at Tam's Burgers, where he was supposed to meet Carter, the lawyers say. He was attacked by Cle "Bone" Sloan, a technical adviser on the N.W.A film who survived being run over by Knight's pickup. Knight heard some of the men shouting orders about how they were going to kill him, Tooson says.

In this Wednesday, June 22, 2016 photo Toi-Lin Kelly, center, the fiancee of former rapper Marion, "Suge" Knight, and his attorneys, Jeremy Lessem, left, and J. Tooson, right, talk with The Associated Press in the Sherman Oaks neighborhood of Los Angeles. AP

Fresh in Knight's mind was an August 2014 nightclub shooting that left him severely injured with seven bullet wounds, the attorneys say. On Monday, he sued singer Chris Brown and the club's owners, blaming them for lax security.

"What's going on in Mr. Knight's mind is, 'Wow, I'm in no position to run,'" Tooson said. '"I'm still recovering from being shot five months ago."'

After running over Carter and Sloan, a key prosecution witness who's admitted he was hitting Knight through the window of his pickup, Knight left the scene and later turned himself in to authorities. His attorneys say Knight willingly spoke to detectives because he believed he was the victim.

"Mr. Knight saw himself as a victim and he went in to cooperate with law enforcement to clear up the situation, to explain to them what happened," Lessem said.

The pretrial phase of Knight's murder case has been marked by repeated health issues for the former mogul. He passed out several times at the courthouse and had to be taken by ambulance for treatment. While some have speculated Knight was faking, Kelly says the episodes were due to complications from the shooting and problems with medications to treat diabetes and a blood clot.

"I think people have this perception of him that he's this monster that wakes up every morning looking for trouble," she said. "That's exactly who he isn't. I think his nickname, Sugar Bear ... describes him perfectly."

Prosecutors portray Knight differently. In a motion filed soon after Knight's arrest, prosecutors described several incidents in which they say he assaulted people, intimidated witnesses and ran an extortion scheme against out-of-town rappers working in Los Angeles.

Knight's attorney at the time pointed out his client had never been charged with those allegations.

Knight's Death Row Records label fueled gangster rap's popularity in the 1990s, with an artist roster that included Dr. Dre, Tupac Shakur and Snoop Dogg before he lost control of the company after it was forced into bankruptcy.

He pleaded no contest in 1995 and was sentenced to five years' probation for assaulting two rappers in 1992. In 1997, he was sentenced to prison for violating his probation by taking part in a fight at a Las Vegas hotel hours before Shakur was fatally wounded in a drive-by attack nearby as he rode in Knight's car.

Tooson and Lessem are the fifth set of attorneys to represent Knight in the murder case. They say much work needs to be done before it goes to trial early next year, including commissioning an enhancement of a widely circulated surveillance video that shows Knight running over the men.

"There's a lot of unanswered questions in this case," Tooson said, noting that 14 minutes elapsed between when Sloan and Carter were injured and when 911 was called. "They needed to clean up the scene and remove the weapons," he said.

District Attorney's spokeswoman Jane Robison declined comment.

Kelly, who is not represented by Tooson and Lessem, would not comment on the murder case, but she fully expects Knight will be exonerated.

"I'm now raising our son and trying to explain to him that, you know, 'Daddy didn't do anything wrong,'" she said. "It's hard because I'd like to know that my son has belief in the justice system and how it works."

Scotty Moore, Elvis Presley's first guitarist, dies at 84

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Scotty Moore, the pioneering rock guitarist whose sharp, graceful style helped Elvis Presley shape his revolutionary sound and inspired a generation of musicians that included Keith Richards, Jimmy Page and Bruce Springsteen, died Tuesday. He was 84. Moore died at his home in Nashville, said biographer and friend James L. Dickerson, who confirmed the death through a family friend.

"As a musician, I consider him one of the co-founders of rock 'n' roll because of the guitar licks that he invented," Dickerson said, calling Moore an icon.

Presley's ex-wife Priscilla Presley echoed that sentiment in a statement Tuesday night: "Elvis loved Scotty dearly and treasured those amazing years together, both in the studio and on the road. Scotty was an amazing musician and a legend in his own right. The incredible music that Scotty and Elvis made together will live forever and influence generations to come."

Moore, a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, was the last survivor of a combo that included Presley, bassist Bill Black and producer Sam Phillips.

Moore was a local session musician when he and Black were thrown together with Presley on July 5, 1954, in the Memphis-based Sun Records studios. Presley was a self-effacing, but determined teen anxious to make a record. Moore's bright riffs and fluid solos—natural compliments to Presley's strumming rhythm guitar—and Black's hard-slapping work on a standup bass gave Elvis the foundation on which he developed a fresh blend of blues, gospel and country that came to be called rock 'n' roll.

"One day, we went to have coffee with Sam and his secretary, Marion Keisker, and she was the one who brought up Elvis," Moore said in a 2014 interview with Guitar Player magazine. "We didn't know, but Marion had a crush on Elvis, and she asked Sam if he had ever talked to that boy who had been in there.

This April 30, 2003, file photo shows Scotty Moore, a former guitarist for Elvis Presley, playing music at the 2nd annual Ponderosa Stomp in New Orleans. AP

"Sam said to Marion, 'Go back in there and get that boy's telephone number, and give it to Scotty.' Then, Sam turned to me and said, 'Why don't you listen to this boy, and see what you think.' Marion came back with a slip of paper, and it said 'Elvis Presley.' I said, 'Elvis Presley—what the hell kind of a name is that?'"

For the now-legendary Sun sessions they covered a wide range of songs, from "That's All Right" to "Mystery Train." After "That's All Right" began drawing attention, Presley, Moore and Black took to the road playing any gig they could find, large or small, adding drummer D.J. Fontana and trying their best to be heard over thousands of screaming fans.

The hip-shaking Presley soon rose from regional act to superstardom, signing up with RCA Records and topping the charts with "Heartbreak Hotel," ''All Shook Up" and many other hits. Elvis was the star, but young musicians listened closely to Moore's contributions, whether the slow, churning solo he laid down on "Heartbreak Hotel" or the flashy lead on "Hard-Headed Woman."

"Everyone else wanted to be Elvis," Richards once observed. "I wanted to be Scotty."

Moore, Black and Fontana backed Presley for his shocking TV appearances and early movies, but by 1957 had tired of what Moore called "Elvis economics." In the memoir "That's Alright, Elvis," published in 1997, Moore noted that he earned just over $8,000 in 1956, while Presley became a millionaire. Moore also cited tension with Elvis' manager, "Colonel" Tom Parker.

Lisa Marie Presley files for divorce in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show Lisa Marie Presley had filed for divorce from her husband of more than 10 years.

Records show Presley filed to end her marriage to guitarist Michael Lockwood on Friday in Los Angeles Superior Court. The filing cites irreconcilable differences.

Presley and Lockwood were married in January 2006, and they have 7-year-old twin daughters together.

Lockwood's website states he has collaborated on music with his estranged wife as well as Aimee Mann, Carly Simon and Fiona Apple.

It was Presley's fourth marriage. The singer-actress was previously married to Michael Jackson and Nicolas Cage and is the only child of Elvis Presley.

Her filing states she separated from Lockwood on June 13.

The divorce was first reported by the celebrity website TMZ.

AP

In this May 10, 2012 file photo, Lisa Marie Presley, at right, and her husband, Michael Lockwood, arrive at NARM Music Biz 2012 Awards, at The Hyatt Regency in Century City, Calif.

Aerosmith drummer's new MA coffee shop to open

AP

In this Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010 file photo, drummer Joey Kramer poses for a portrait in New York.

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—A rock 'n' roll-themed coffee shop owned by Aerosmith's drummer is set to open in Massachusetts this week.

Joey Kramer's Rockin' & Roastin' Cafe will open its doors on Friday in North Attleborough, about 40 miles outside of Boston. The public is invited to attend a special ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for 9 a.m.

Kramer has said the cafe will serve up organic coffee with a rock 'n' roll ambiance. Kramer's drum kit and other Aerosmith memorabilia will be displayed.

Aerosmith formed in Boston in 1971.

'Law & Order' director gets probation on child porn charges

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—A television director with credits on "Law & Order" and other shows has been sentenced in New York to 10 years' probation on child pornography charges.

Jace Alexander was sentenced Tuesday after pleading guilty to promoting a sexual performance by a child and possessing an obscene performance by a child. He had faced up to seven years in prison.

The 52-year-old must also register as a sex offender in New York.

Prosecutors say digital files showing minors engaged in sex acts were found on computers at the director's Dobbs Ferry, New York, home last year.

Alexander had directed more than a dozen episodes of "Law & Order" since the mid-1990s. He also did work on "The Blacklist" and "Rescue Me."

'Glee' star Mark Salling changes lawyer in child porn case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An actor who starred on the musical dramedy "Glee" has a new lawyer to represent him in a federal child pornography case.

A federal judge on Monday approved Mark Salling's request to have a new lawyer represent him and set his next court date for Sept. 19.

Salling's new attorney, Michael J. Proctor, did not return an email seeking comment.

The 33-year-old actor pleaded not guilty on June 3 to two counts receiving and possessing child pornography. No trial date has been set.

Salling played bad-boy Noah "Puck" Puckerman on the Fox musical dramedy. He was released after posting $150,000 bail.

Police raided his home in December and seized a laptop, hard drive and flash drive they say contained images and videos depicting child pornography.

NFL's Jim Brown reaches $600K deal in video game suit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NFL Hall of Famer Jim Brown has accepted a $600,000 offer from video game maker Electronic Arts to end a lawsuit alleging the company illegally used his likeness in its NFL Madden games.

A law firm representing Brown announced the deal on Tuesday. EA had no comment.

Brown said in the lawsuit filed in Los Angeles County in 2013 that he declined to license his likeness to EA, but EA used it anyway. He accused the company of violating his right of publicity.

Brown also sued EA in federal court, but a judge dismissed the case.

Brown repeatedly led the league in rushing as a running back for the Cleveland Browns in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

AP

Cleveland Browns Hall of Fame running back Jim Brown rides in the parade celebrating the Cleveland Cavaliers' NBA Championship in downtown Cleveland Wednesday, June 22, 2016.

Brother with multiple issues must work them out himself

DEAR ABBY: My brother, "Chris," is going through a divorce and lost his business. He is now lashing out at our mom and me when she spends time with me.

When I tried to express my sympathy, Chris attacked me via direct message, saying I have a "charmed life and don't care about anyone—including him and our cash-strapped parents." It started when Dad gave me a car he wasn't using before we learned about my brother's misfortune. When I tried to return it, Dad refused.

Because I stopped responding to him on the internet, Chris is now complaining to Mom about my "selfishness." He says if the situation was reversed, he would have moved heaven and Earth to help me.

Abby, Chris has a job. He lives with our folks and pays token rent. My husband and I work, but I have had a salary cut, we have two kids to support and a mortgage to pay. We're in no position to provide the financial assistance my brother expects. My parents suspect that he's still giving money to his soon-to-be ex.

My husband says Chris is trying to manipulate me and that I need to go on with my life, but I'm worried that the longer this goes on, the harder it will be to heal the rift. I'm also worried about how this is affecting our parents.

GRIEVING IN NICOSIA, CYPRUS

DEAR GRIEVING: You cannot heal a rift you didn't create, and you also can't "donate away" Chris' resentment. He's unhappy for a number of reasons and is taking it out on you not because you're a bad sister, but because you are within striking distance.

Your brother needs to work out his difficulties himself. A family meeting—including your husband—might clear the air so all of you are on the same page. Your brother needs to understand why the financial help he seems to expect is unrealistic and will not be forthcoming.

DEAR ABBY: Is there any way to counter a stranger's mean or hurtful remark (racist, age-related or sexist) in a mall or store? I feel I have to say something -- without being confrontational—even if the remark isn't aimed at me. What do you suggest?

COMPELLED TO ACT IN OTTAWA, CANADA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

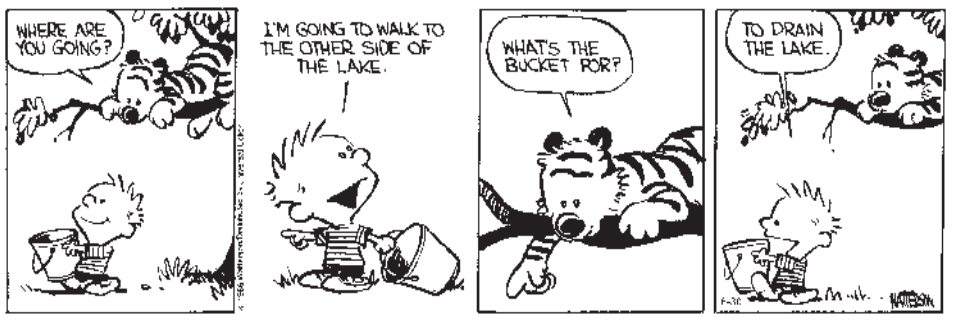
DEAR COMPELLED: Because you don't want a confrontation, I urge you to say nothing to the person who made the offensive remark. However, you could approach the person who was the target and quietly say: "That was uncalled for. I hope you realize the person who said that is ignorant, and don't let it get to you."

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

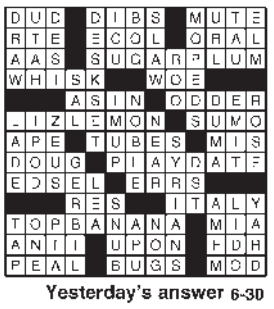
ACROSS

1 Huge
4 Counterfeit
8 Island near Java
12 Old French coin
13 Pop flavor
14 Exploits
15 Eucalyptus varieties
17 British gun
18 Luau bowlful
19 Monarch's spouse
21 Tribal emblems
24 Word of denial
25 — polloi
26 Furry foot
28 Tennis star Federer
32 Sport shirt brand
34 Dazzle
36 Chaste
37 Man of La Mancha
39 Silent assent
41 Russian jet
42 Central
44 Newsstands
46 Set of words
50 "Unh-unh"
51 Plow pullers
52 Dome-shaped candies
56 El —
57 Roman 1052
58 Moray, for one
59 LAX guesses
60 Arkin of "Argo"
61 Covert agent

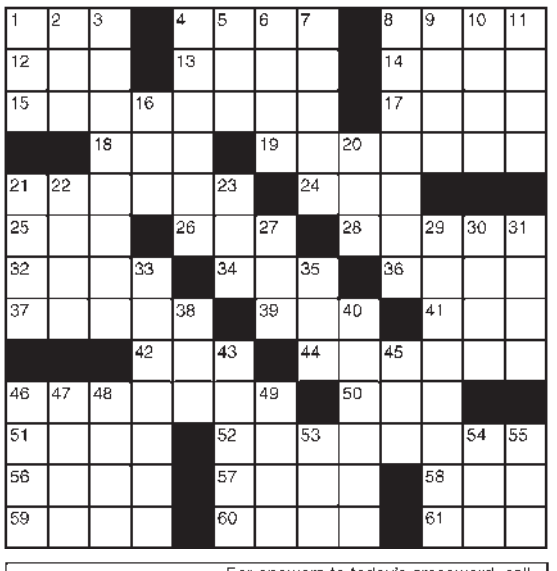
DOWN

1 Plead
2 Hosp. area
3 Initiative
4 Pinch pennies
5 Weeding tool
6 Mr. Guinness
7 Brick worker
8 1956 Marilyn Monroe film
9 Regarding
10 Ogler's look
11 "— It Romantic?"
16 Sock part
20 Neither mate
21 Not that
22 Leak slowly
23 Witnessed
27 Triumphed
29 Sleuths
30 Composer Satie
31 Rules (Abbr.)
33 Popular pizza chain
35 Stir-fry pan
38 Documentarian Burns
40 Meal, in slang
43 Firm belief
45 Rowing need
46 Unrivaled
47 Way out
48 TV's "Warrior Princess"
49 Void partner
53 Soccer's Hamm
54 Vigor
55 Devious

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 6-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michael Phelps, 31; Monica Potter, 45; Mike Tyson, 50; David Alan Grier, 61.

Happy Birthday: Stay focused and you will reach your goals and impress onlookers. Success will come through hard work mixed with a unique approach to whatever you take on. The interest you gain as you bring about constructive changes to the way you live will put you in a position to barter and ask for favors. Romance is in the stars. Your numbers are 10, 17, 21, 24, 32, 36, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Pay attention to personal matters before something backfires, leaving you in a dispute with someone you care about. Keep everything out in the open and make your positions and intentions clear. It's better to be safe than sorry. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll have what it takes to make a difference to others. The choices you make and the suggestions and hands-on help you offer will bring you recognition and boost your reputation. An important relationship will take a positive turn. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Monitor your spending. Don't feel you have to pay for someone else if you don't have the funds. It's important to look out for your interests first. A change in the way you handle others will be required in order to get ahead. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll have clear passage to something you want to pursue or someone you want to spend more time with. Don't sit back when you should be living your dream. It's up to you to make things happen. Stop procrastinating and start doing. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't take on too much or you will fall short of your goal and be judged by your actions. It's good to bring about positive changes that will give you more time to work on the projects that excite you the most. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Getting together with old friends or colleagues will bring back memories and revive old ideas and plans. Helping others will end up benefiting you as well. Celebrate your good fortune with someone dear to your heart. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Focus on what you can accomplish. Disputes will lower your ability to get things done. Refuse to let someone bully you or push you into something you don't want to do. Organize your day and stick to your plans. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Step up your game a notch and use your knowledge, creativity and charm to get what you want. You'll provide interesting suggestions that will put you in a good position for advancement. Romance and travel look promising. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't go into debt trying to please someone because you are foolish with your money. Bring about changes to the way you live that will help you get your personal finances back on track. Keep your life simple. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): It's catch-up time. Keep a list and make an effort to complete all the unfinished business in your life. Leave time at the end of the day to engage in a little fun with the people you love the most. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Check out your motives before you get into something for the wrong reason. It's important to be true to yourself and honest with others about what you want. An emotional situation is best handled quickly and honestly. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't wait for others to do things for you. Take the initiative and do only what you have to do. Your actions and accomplishments will make an excellent impression on someone you love. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are magnetic, unique and outgoing. You are generous and hardworking.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2			8					5
	7 1			2	6		9 7	
		7				9		8
5		1				4		
	8 9		5		4 7		2 3	
6								4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	2	5	9	8	3	4	7
7	3	5	1	4	2	9	6	8
9	8	4	3	7	6	1	5	2
8	9	7	6	3	4	5	2	1
3	5	6	7	2	1	4	8	9
4	2	1	9	8	5	6	7	3
1	6	9	2	5	7	8	3	4
5	7	8	4	1	3	2	9	6
2	4	3	8	6	9	7	1	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ODD BEHAVIORS Solution: 9 letters

E	S	T	I	B	A	H	S	E	C	F	I	S	H	Y
G	S	A	I	B	O	H	P	H	S	I	L	O	O	F
N	O	U	T	B	U	R	S	T	E	I	U	Q	S	G
A	R	E	B	G	N	I	T	U	O	H	S	C	T	O
R	D	I	Z	Z	I	N	E	S	S	E	H	H	I	O
T	E	D	U	T	I	T	T	A	N	E	S	A	L	F
S	G	N	I	R	A	E	W	S	D	L	N	R	E	Y
N	B	I	Z	A	R	R	E	U	A	R	R	A	U	Z
O	E	L	D	E	S	O	L	C	E	A	E	C	N	A
I	N	A	A	R	F	E	I	P	I	T	T	T	C	R
T	I	C	D	H	I	D	M	L	I	T	T	E	O	C
C	T	I	U	I	E	E	U	B	V	E	A	Ⓡ	M	A
A	U	M	L	M	T	C	W	E	C	A	P	Ⓤ	M	U
E	O	O	T	N	E	R	E	F	F	I	D	Ⓓ	O	S
R	R	C	S	P	E	E	C	H	Y	G	I	Ⓔ	N	E

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 6/30

Adults, Attitude, Bite, Bizarre, Cause, Character, Closed, Comical, Crazy, Different, Dizziness, Fishy, Foolish, Goofy, Habits, Hobbies, Hostile, Hygiene, Medical, Outburst, Pace, Patterns, Peculiar, Phobias, Quiet, Reactions, Routine, Rude, Schedule, Sense of Humor, Shouting, Speech, Strange, Swearing, Temper, Uncommon, Weird

Yesterday's Answer: Wrinkles

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Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda
Thursday, July 07, 2016
5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room
2nd Fl., Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
Tel: 234-9661 ● Fax: 234-9666 ● www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 06/09/16 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings
1. None

C. Communications

D. Old Business
2. None

E. New Business
1. Amendment to H.S. Lee Contruction Co., Inc.'s Conditional Use Permit #2015-2209
2. Office Operations Reports (Permits, Enforcement)
3. Proposed changes to the Zoning Fees

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please call the Zoning Office at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

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Serena cruises, Wozniacki bows out at Wimbledon

AP
Serena Williams of the U.S plays a return to Amara Safikovic of Switzerland during their women's singles match on day two of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Tuesday, June 28, 2016.

LONDON (AP)—Serena Williams started the defence of her Wimbledon title with a straight-sets victory over Amra Sadikovic but former world number one Caroline Wozniacki made a first-round exit on Tuesday.

Current rankings topper Williams was not at her best on Centre Court, but the 148-ranked Sadikovic was unable to take advantage as she was beaten 6-2 6-4 on day two.

Top seed Williams will now face fellow American Christina McHale in round two as she attempts to equal Steffi Graf's Open-Era record of winning 22 grand slams and seal a first major title since Wimbledon last year.

Wozniacki has plummeted to 45th in the world and the Dane fell at the first hurdle, losing 7-5 6-4 to 13th seed Svetlana Kuznetsova under the roof due to rain which forced play to be suspended on the outside courts.

Sixth seed Roberta Vinci recovered from a second-set blip to beat Alison Riske 6-2 5-7 6-3, while British wildcard Tara Moore beat Alison Van Uytvanck to reach the second round for the first time at the All England Club.

The Wimbledon title is the only major honour Williams still holds and the 21-time grand slam champion is determined to hang on to the Venus Rosewater Dish.

There has been talk of a potential changing of the guard following the 34-year-old's final defeats against Angelique Kerber at the Australian Open and Garbine Muguruza in the French Open, but Williams is itching for more success.

She said: "I would be lying if I said I feel fresh, but I don't feel fatigue. I don't think I feel fresh, but I feel real hungry, super motivated, extremely ready to do the best."

Wozniacki missed the French Open due to an ankle injury and there was further misery for the 25-year-old when Kuznetsova sent her packing.

Kuznetsova will take on Moore in round two after breaking Wozniacki, who has never gone beyond the fourth round at SW19, four times and coming up with 23 winners.

Wozniacki said: "It kind of just sucks right now to be out of the tournament. There's not really much else to say. I mean, at one point you're just like, you know what, it has to turn, it has to go the other way eventually. I'm just going to take the punches I'm getting and just try and learn from it and try and move forward."

Meanwhile, seven-time Wimbledon champion Roger Federer has been warned - take 772nd-ranked British qualifier Marcus Willis lightly at your peril.

"I don't think Roger is going to have played anyone like Marcus. I know that for a fact. It will be tricky," Liam Broady, Willis' fellow Britain, said on Tuesday.

"That's what Marcus always is. He makes opponents win matches. He serves well, serves big, puts pressure on.

"Obviously, Roger's the greatest player of all time. But personally, I think it will be a really interesting match-up."

Willis, who almost quit to take up coaching and had to battle through six rounds of qualifying, stunned Lithuania's Ricardas Berankis, ranked 718 places above him, on Monday.

Some of his play, including rarely seen sliced forehands, bamboozled Berankis.

It set Wimbledon abuzz, but a repeat against 34-year-old 17-times grand slam champion Federer would seem barely credible even for the most far-fetched Hollywood plot.

Or would it?

Duncan, LeBron exercise player options

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—A person with knowledge of the situation tells The Associated Press that San Antonio Spurs star Tim Duncan has exercised his contract option for next season but is still mulling his playing future.

Yahoo Sports first reported Duncan's decision on Tuesday. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the Spurs have not publicly disclosed Duncan's decision.

Duncan exercised the option for $5.6 million. But the move doesn't necessarily mean the 40-year-old franchise mainstay will return for another season.

Duncan averaged 8.6 points and 7.3 rebounds last season, far below his career averages. But he remains revered and valued by the organization for his leadership and defensive ability, and the Spurs would love to have him back.

Meanwhile, for the third offseason in a row, LeBron James will be a free agent. For the second offseason in a row, there's little doubt about where he'll sign.

The 2016 NBA Finals MVP has decided not to exercise his player option for the 2016-17 season, thereby putting him on the open market when free agency begins July 1. However, this move was considered highly likely and does not jeopardize James' promised return to Cleveland following the franchise's first championship. It is almost entirely a financial decision.

Again, the financials made the opt-out a no-brainer for James. If he signs a one-year contract (or similar opt-out deal) for 2016-17, he can make roughly $3 million more than he would have under the terms of the prior contract. James could then sign a multi-year deal worth well north of $30 million per season next summer, when the cap could rise to more than $100 million. If James chooses to sign that long-term deal this July instead, he'll still earn approximately $30 million per season.

Although his agent gives no indication of which deal James wants to sign, it's a safe bet that the Cavaliers will let him do whatever he wants. James proved in the NBA Finals that he remains a transcendent player when necessary. Furthermore, he's now a folk hero in Cleveland. The franchise needs him and will submit to any terms as long as he is present to receive his championship ring on opening night.

James' forthcoming raise will only exacerbate the Cavaliers' long-term cap issues, but that's absolutely an acceptable trade-off given all he does for the team. This roster has been constructed for (and with considerable input from) James and would make no sense without him. It's a good move as long as owner Dan Gilbert and his business partners are prepared to pay the luxury tax.

Clarifying James' status is by no means the only pressing issue for the Cavaliers and general manager David Griffin this offseason. Starting shooting guard J.R. Smith will be an unrestricted free agent, and the team is expected to consider trade offers for power forward Kevin Love.

Day out of Olympics due to Zika virus

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Jason Day pulled out of the Olympics on Tuesday because of the Zika virus, costing golf its No. 1 player as it returns from a century-long absence at the games.

The sport has lost two of its biggest stars in the last week, adding to the perception that the Olympics are not a high priority. Rory McIlroy, a four-time major champion, also said Zika will keep from competing in Rio de Janeiro.

"The sole reason for my decision is my concerns about the possible transmission of the Zika virus and the potential risks that it may present to my wife's future pregnancies and to future members of our family," Day said in a statement. "I have always placed my family in front of everything else in my life."

The 28-year-old Australian and his wife, Ellie, had their second child in November, and he has said they want more children.

Shane Lowry of Ireland, who got married in April and plans to start a family, also withdrew Tuesday. That makes six golfers, including two of the most prominent athletes in Day and McIlroy, to specifically cite Zika for not going to Rio. The others are Charl Schwartzel and Branden Grace of South Africa, and Marc Leishman of Australia, whose wife's immune system has not fully recovered after she nearly died last year of toxic shock syndrome.

"With Rory and myself pulling, I don't know if that will trigger anyone else," Day said. "It's not my decision. ... Some guys are in different situations. Some guys are younger and single and can take that chance, and some guys are in the same situation as me and have children or going to have children, get married and stuff like that. It's a difficult one for those guys."

American cyclist Tejay van Garderen is among a handful of athletes outside of golf who also cited Zika as the reason behind not going to Rio. Basketball star Stephen Curry didn't specifically cite Zika but noted that "other factors" played a role in his decision to skip the games.

Brazil has been the hardest hit of the approximately 60 countries that have reported an outbreak of Zika, the mosquito-borne virus linked to severe birth defects and possible neurological problems in adults.

Day first expressed concern a month ago at the Memorial and said he had been consulting doctors so he could make a smart choice.

"I wouldn't be pulling out just because it's not safe or something like that down there, because I've never been down to Brazil and I don't know if it is safe or not," Day said at the Bridgestone Invitational. "I'm withdrawing from the Olympics because of the Zika, and that's the main reason here, because I just don't want to put my family at risk because of it."

Australia has three players in the top 50 in the world, and all of them have withdrawn - Day, Adam Scott (No. 8) and Leishman (No. 39).

Next in line would be Scott Hend (No. 75) and Marcus Fraser (No. 81).

Day had been among the strongest proponents of competing in the Olympics, as had McIlroy and other young stars. But as the July 11 deadline nears for qualifying for Rio, some top golfers have been wavering.

Among the stars who plan to play or have not decided are Jordan Spieth, U.S. Open champion Dustin Johnson, Bubba Watson, Henrik Stenson of Sweden and Masters champion Danny Willett of England.

Golf already has lost three of the top 10 players in the world. Scott was the first to withdraw. He said Olympics were never his priority in a year in which the schedule is crammed with major championships with far more historical significant than an Olympic medal.

Baez grand slam lifts Cubs past Reds in 15

AP
Chicago Cubs' Javier Baez (9) celebrates with Kris Bryant, left, Anthony Rizzo, center right, and Jason Hammel, right, after hitting a grand slam off Cincinnati Reds relief pitcher J.J. Hoover during the 15th inning of a baseball game Tuesday, June 28, 2016, in Cincinnati. The Cubs won, 7-2.

CINCINNATI (AP)—Manager Joe Maddon's move was so wacky that even his own players laughed. And when it worked better than anyone could have imagined, the Cubs were celebrating again.

Kris Bryant singled home the tiebreaking run in the 15th inning, and Maddon used three pitchers in left field while Chicago beat the Cincinnati Reds 7-2 on Tuesday night in the longest game of the season for both teams.

With the Cubs out of position players, relievers Travis Wood and Spencer Patton (1-0) alternated between left field and the mound in the 14th inning, which ended with Patton getting the final out. Wood then finished it off with reliever Pedro Strop in left.

"When I went out there to do it originally, the infielders were kind of giggling," said Maddon, who had never done anything like it as a manager.

It worked perfectly as things started falling in place for the Cubs again.

Bryant's only hit on Tuesday—a single off J.J. Hoover (1-2)—snapped the tie. Javier Baez added a grand slam in the 15th, the sixth career allowed by Hoover, which is a Reds record. Then it was just a matter of figuring out how to finish it off.

"For the left fielder to pitch to one batter and then go back—yeah, that's crazy," Baez said. "But we had fun."

The National League's top team went 1-6 last week but has pulled out of the downturn by winning the first two games of a series against the Reds. The Cubs hit five homers—three by Bryant—while taking the opener 11-8.

Indians 5, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Carlos Santana hit a tiebreaking single in a three-run ninth inning and the Cleveland Indians won their 11th straight game, beating the Atlanta Braves.

Corey Kluber (8-7) allowed three hits in eight innings as the Indians extended their best streak since an 11-game string in 1982.

Santana's single off Arodys Vizcaino (1-3) made it 3-2.

Nationals 5, Mets 0

In Washington, Lucas Giolito threw four scoreless innings in his rain-shortened major league debut to help Washington.

Baseball's top pitching prospect allowed just one hit. The 21-year-old struck out one and walked two before a lengthy rain delay ended his outing.

Bryce Harper hit a two-run homer, his team-leading 16th.

Oliver Perez (2-1) won in relief. Former New York ace Matt Harvey (4-10) took the loss.

Phillies 4, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Arizona ace Zack Greinke left after two innings with tightness in his oblique muscle and Philadelphia rallied with two runs in the ninth inning.

Makiel Franco homered for the Phillies.

Brad Ziegler (2-3) has blown two of his last three save chances after converting 43 in a row.

Hector Neris (2-3) pitched a scoreless eighth to get the victory as the Phillies won a series for the first time in 13 tries. Jeanmar Gomez tossed a perfect ninth for his 21st save.

Astros 7, Angels 1

In Anaheim, Carlos Correa hit a three-run homer in the first inning off Tim Lincecum, sending Houston toward its ninth win in 10 games.

Correa went 3 for 4 and matched his career high with four RBI. The Astros beat the Angels for the seventh straight time.

Lincecum (1-2) couldn't get through the fifth inning in his third start for Los Angeles, yielding seven hits, four walks and five runs. It was his second straight bumpy outing after a promising debut.

Scott Feldman (5-3) yielded three hits in five innings.

Orioles 11, Padres 7

In San Diego, Adam Jones hit a leadoff homer against his hometown team and Hyun Soo Kim and Chris Davis also homered for Baltimore in its sixth straight victory.

The Orioles lead the majors with 123 homers, including 54 in June.

Ubaldo Jimenez (5-7) beat the Padres in consecutive starts, giving up a run and three hits in five innings. Erik Johnson (0-4) allowed four runs in five innings.

Mariners 5, Pirates 2

In Seattle, Nelson Cruz hit his 20th home run of the season and Robinson Cano had three hits for Seattle.

Cruz became the only current player with at least 20 home runs in every season since 2009. David Ortiz and Brian McCann can also reach that mark this season.

Hisashi Iwakuma (7-6) took a shutout into the seventh inning before giving up a pair of runs.

Jonathon Niese (6-6) got the loss.

Rangers 7, Yankees 1

In New York, Cole Hamels breezed through seven shutout innings to win his fourth consecutive start, Adrian Beltre homered and drove in three runs, and Texas kept rolling.

The Rangers have won four in a row and 12 of 14 overall, and eight straight on the road.

Hamels (9-1) yielded six singles and struck out seven in outpitching CC Sabathia (5-5).

Yankees slugger Carlos Beltran left in the first with a tight right hamstring. He had an MRI that was "clean" and is day to day, manager Joe Girardi said.

Dodgers 6, Brewers 5

In Milwaukee, Teen lefty Julio Urias posted his first big league win as Los Angeles held off Milwaukee.

Urias (1-2) gave up two hits and walked six in six innings. The 19-year-old rookie left with a 6-2 lead, and Kenley Jansen got his 23rd save.

Chase Anderson (4-8) took the loss.

Dodger center fielder Joc Pederson crashed face first into the wall after catching Chris Carter's sacrifice fly in the eighth. Pederson crumpled onto the warning track and, after several minutes, walked off holding his chest.

Red Sox 8, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Travis Shaw homered, doubled, singled and drove in five runs as Boston ended a three-game losing streak.

Rick Porcello (9-2) gave up one run in six innings.

Tampa Bay ace Chris Archer (4-11) has gone from being an All-Star a year ago to leading the major leagues in losses this season.

Cardinals 8, Royals 4

In Kansas City, Matt Carpenter homered and St. Louis finished with a two-game split in Kansas City. The intrastate series now shifts to Busch Stadium for two games.

Michael Wacha (4-7) allowed four runs over six innings. Yordano Ventura (6-5) allowed seven runs on seven hits, three walks and a hit batter in 5 1/3 innings.

Royals outfielder Lorenzo Cain grabbed his left hamstring while trying to beat out an infield hit in the seventh. He exited and the extent of the injury was unclear.

Twins 4, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Brian Dozier homered twice and drove in four runs to lead Minnesota.

It was the ninth straight game with an extra-base hit for Dozier, the longest streak for the franchise since it moved to Minnesota in 1961.

The Twins beat Chicago for the first time in seven tries. Kyle Gibson (1-5) pitched seven innings of five-hit ball.

Dozier pulled both homers off Jose Quintana (5-8).

Tigers 7, Marlins 5

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera's three-run homer highlighted a seven-run fifth inning that boosted Detroit.

Jose Iglesias and Nick Castellanos also homered during the big inning, which came after Adam Conley (4-5) had been dominant through four.

Mike Pelfrey (2-7) allowed four runs and 12 hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Giancarlo Stanton hit a two-run homer for Miami.

Seahawks agree to 4-year deal with Baldwin

SEATTLE (AP)—After becoming a Super Bowl champion, Doug Baldwin took a risk.

He could have signed a long extension with the Seattle Seahawks after winning it all in 2014. But Baldwin gambled that a shorter extension was the best move and by the time he needed to make another decision about his future, his value would be worth far more.

Baldwin played his way into the correct move, and he signed a four-year extension with the Seahawks on Tuesday that runs through the 2020 season.

Coming off a career season, Baldwin became the latest piece of Seattle's core to agree to a long-term deal, including quarterback Russell Wilson, cornerbacks Richard Sherman and Jeremy Lane, linebackers Bobby Wagner and K.J. Wright, defensive end Cliff Avril and safety Earl Thomas.

Baldwin tied for the NFL lead in touchdown receptions last season and set career highs in TDs, receptions and yards receiving. He signed a $13 million, three-year deal with Seattle following the 2013 season that runs through this upcoming season.

Baldwin's agreement was first reported by KIRO-AM in Seattle. Representatives did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

Getting an extension done with Baldwin this summer was a priority for the Seahawks.

"It is a big deal and it's a very serious negotiation as they all are. He's done an incredible job for us and is a great teammate," coach Pete Carroll said June 16 when the Seahawks finished minicamp. "Eventually we'll get something worked out. I hope something happens. The intent is to get him signed and secured for a good while."

Baldwin, 27, finished last season with 14 touchdown receptions, tying him with Brandon Marshall and Allen Robinson for the NFL lead. He became the first Seattle wide receiver since 2007 to top 1,000 yards receiving and finished with 78 receptions. Most of those came late in the season when the connection between Wilson and Baldwin was clicking at a record pace.

Baldwin had 47 receptions and 12 touchdowns over the final eight games of the regular season. He had one three-week stretch where he became the first wide receiver since Jerry Rice in 1993 with eight TDs in three games.

Fans, president, and Maradona want Messi to reconsider

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Lionel Messi arrived back in Argentina on Monday and avoided commenting on his abrupt resignation from the national team after losing the Copa America final to Chile.

Dozens of emotional fans wearing the white and sky-blue striped jerseys of the national team, adorned with Messi's number 10, waited in the rain for the team to arrive back from the tournament in the United States.

Some followed the team bus along the road leading from the airport to the Argentine Football Association complex. They waved flags, chanted'' ''Messi is not leaving!'' and carried banners. One of them read: "Messi: I love you more than I love my mom."

Although Messi could not be seen on the bus, AFA spokesman Ernesto Cherquis Bialo confirmed to The Associated Press that he had arrived in Buenos Aires with the rest of the team.

AP

In this June 14, 2016 file photo, Argentina's Lionel Messi waves to fans at the end of a Copa America Centenario Group D soccer match against Bolivia, in Seattle. Messi's shocking decision to stop playing for Argentina could further hurt his already tarnished legacy with his national team.

Some fans, players, and even Argentina's president and the country's greatest player Diego Maradona asked Messi to reconsider. Other supporters on Monday were simply sad that one of the all-time greats is departing the national team prematurely.

Messi shocked Argentina and the whole world with his unexpected resignation after Chile defeated Argentina 4-2 on penalties after a 0-0 draw on Sunday.

"The national team is over for me," Messi Told the Argentine network TyC Sports. "It's been four finals, it's not meant for me. I tried. It was the thing I wanted the most, but I couldn't get it, so I think it's over."

Messi lifted Argentina's first penalty kick over the crossbar, setting the stage for another loss in a final. Messi and Argentina lost to Brazil in the 2007 Copa final and to Germany in extra time in the 2014 World Cup final. They lost last year's Copa final to host Chile on penalty kicks after a 0-0 draw.

"I imagine it was a very hard blow," Barcelona teammate Gerard Pique said. "I know how competitive he is. He will recover from this."

Messi moved to Barcelona in 2001 when he was 13, producing lots of hardware for the Catalan club. But many fans at home have criticized him for not leading the nation to a World Cup title, as Diego Maradona did in 1986.

"On top of everything, I missed the penalty kick," Messi told TyC. "I think this is best for everyone. First of all for me, and then for everyone. I think there are a lot of people who want this, who obviously are not satisfied, as we are not satisfied reaching a final and not winning it."

Fans also gathered outside the downtown office of the Argentine Football Association, many torn by Messi's promised departure.

"I feel an enormous sadness, it tears my heart in two," said 29-year-old Juan Pablo Pinasco. "It was the cup that he (Messi) had to win, more than anything it is something that he deserves and I just don't want him to leave the national team."

Another Argentine was more critical of Messi.

"He is the best, he is the best outside (of Argentina) but he just has no luck here," Guido Stanchi said. "That's it, he's got to go. The team doesn't help him. Now there has to be a change. Let some new players come, ones that have a bit more will."

Sergio Romero, Argentina's goalkeeper, said Messi spoke in the heat of the moment and he wants him to reconsider.

"It's sad because once again a beautiful chance slipped away," Romero said.

Argentine President Mauricio Macri said on Twitter that "more than ever I feel great pride for our team. I hope we can continue to have the joy of seeing the world's best player for many years."

Ronaldo aims for Euro record but faces tough Polish defense

MARSEILLE, France (AP)—If Cristiano Ronaldo is to send Portugal to the semifinals and match Michel Platini's all-time European Championship scoring record, he'll have to find a way through a Poland defense that's among the toughest of the tournament.

Ronaldo has scored eight goals from four championships, one shy of Platini's nine, though he's been on inconsistent form in Platini's home country.

Frustrated and angry in Portugal's opening draws with Iceland and Austria, Ronaldo has shown flashes of his true talent since then, scoring two goals in a 3-3 draw with Hungary and setting up Ricardo Quaresma's winner against Croatia in the round of 16.

Poland's defense looks formidable after conceding just a single goal in four games. And even that needed a stroke of genius, in the form of Xherdan Shaqiri's spectacular overhead kick for Switzerland in the last 16.

Despite a lack of well-known defenders—the first-choice center-backs play for Torino and Legia Warsaw — the Poles have made a virtue of scraping through games, with two 1-0 wins and a victory on penalties against the Swiss. They also neutralized the attacking play of World Cup champion Germany in a 0-0 draw in the group stage.

Just like his great rival Lionel Messi, Ronaldo has never won a major title with his country. On what is widely considered the easier side of the draw, with a potential semifinal against Wales or Belgium, this could be his year.

While Portugal beat a solid Croatia team 1-0, it didn't register a single shot on target until deep into extra time. Winning ugly is fine for center-back Jose Fonte, just as long as Portugal is winning.

"It doesn't matter if you play beautiful or ugly football," he said Monday. "You have to win and I want to win. If we have to play badly every game and win, I'll do it."

If the attack has stuttered, Portugal's defense is also a concern with four goals conceded, the joint-worst of any team in the quarterfinals, along with Iceland.

The chaotic 3-3 draw with Hungary in the last group game prompted a rethink by coach Fernando Santos, who brought in the Southampton duo of Fonte and right-back Cedric for the last 16, in place of Ricardo Carvalho and Vierinha, who had started all three group games.

Portugal also has injury concerns, as left-back Raphael Guerreiro and midfielders Jose Moutinho and Andre Gomes are all doubtful.

Poland's top scorer in qualifying, Robert Lewandowski, remains scoreless in the tournament, but he's often been a sacrificial element in Poland's strategy, keeping defenses occupied to create space for winger Jakub Blaszczykowski or second striker Arkadiusz Milik. However, the resulting chances have often been wasted, especially by Milik.

CNMI

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threw a three-hitter in a no relief job in six and a half innings. He yielded only one run and struck out five batters.

Center fielder Jathan Barnes also helped Guam ease past Kosrae, as he went 3-for-5 at bat and scored two runs, two singles, and two RBIs. Second baseman Ryan Martinez and designated hitter Jay Taijeron both hit 2-for-4 and also logged two runs each with the latter adding two RBIs, while Ken Fernandez contributed three runs off his 2-for-4 performance at the plate.

Guam set up the lopsided win via 10-run mercy rule after a seven-run bottom of the fourth. Barnes had a two-run double in that pivotal inning, while Martinez hit an RBI single. Earlier in the third, JD San Nicolas made his lone hit in the match—a two-run double— and Taijeron followed it up with a two-run single for Guam's 5-1 advantage. Fernandez recorded Guam's lone run at the bottom of the second inning off a sacrifice out from Mike Peredo, while Jerry Shrew's RBI double put Kosrae on the board at the top. Kosrae's other run came in the sixth with Fred Nedlic reaching home off Guam's error at third base.

Guam got the one run back at the bottom of the sixth off Fernandez's RBI triple and the winning team added two more from Kosrae's miscues at second base to peg the final score.

Junior Nationals 13, Guam 10

In the last preliminary game yesterday afternoon, the CNMI Junior Nationals edged Guam.

M.J. Sakisat closed out for the Junior Nationals, pitching 4.2 innings and allowing only two hits and no runs. He took over the mound after Guam scored two more runs at the bottom of the fifth and threatened to mound a comeback.

Guam fell short as it had a 1-2-3 inning in three of the last four frames. Guam once held a shaky 8-7 lead before a five-run top of the fifth put the Junior Nationals on top, 12-8. Jesse Brel sparked the rally with his three-run double, while Frankie Lifoifoi had an RBI single, and Nathan Camacho scored off Guam's error at home plate. The Junior Nationals earlier had two runs each in the first and third inning, collected three more in the fourth, and had one in the sixth, while Guam's first four runs were registered in the first and second.

Though they prevailed, the Junior Nationals' second victory in four games is not counted in the team standings as they are only a guest squad in the four-nation competition.

LEE

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earned a straight set win versus Hong Kong's Wing Sze Yu, 6-2, 6-2, for a quarterfinal duel against Shindo, who knocked off compatriot Akane Koizumi, 6-4, 6-1.

In the doubles, Lee and Rengiil, whore are seeded second in the competition, swept the Solomon Island's Georjemah Row and Vinda Teally, 6-1, 6-3, to march into the quarterfinals against Australia's Roopa Bans and Luciana Kunkel. The Aussie pair won over Japan's Amu Tsukada and Miu Yabuta, 7-5, 6-4, and Hong Kong's Skylar Wang and Alicia Yue, 6-2, 6-4, to book a Round of 8 ticket.

Lee's fellow CNMI player—Isabel Heras—missed a quarterfinal berth after she and Bryn Johnson of the U.S. bowed to Kobayashi and Singapore's Maxine Ng, 5-7, 2-6. Before the loss, Heras and Johnson prevailed in their opening game against Japan's Sachiho Sho and Kaeda Tada, 6-2, 6-2.

The third CNMI bet in the doubles contest—Tania Tan—teamed up with Singapore's Julia Barden and they fell to Ohashi and Ukita, 1-6, 0-6.

MAJOR

From Page 28

was not enough to move the Commonwealth bets to the Final Four, as they ended up at fourth place in Group A of the tournament behind Korea (5-0), the Philippines (4-1), and Dubai (2-3). Only the Top 2 finishers in each group will advance to the semis.

The CNMI also had a 2-3 record in the pool play, but dropped to fourth as it lost the tiebreak to Dubai, which defeated the former, 2-0, last Monday. Guam (2-3) and India (0-5) rounded out the Group A standings.

The Commonwealth's crew's other losses came from the Philippines (0-2) last Sunday and the host nation, 0-13, last Tuesday. The John Maratita-managed squad opened its campaign in ASPAC with a 7-3 triumph over Guam before absorbing three straight defeats.

The CNMI then vented its ire on India to end its skid. Maratita's wards took the easy win after only three and a half innings, as an eight-run bottom of the first gave the team control of the match. The squad went 15-for-30 at bat and had 16 earned runs.

Reid Teregeyo was 4-for-4 at the plate and scored two runs and four RBIs. Kyle Kapileo and Nathan Aizon both hit 2-for-3 with the former adding three runs and two RBIs and the latter contributing two runs and an RBI.

2016 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League Finals

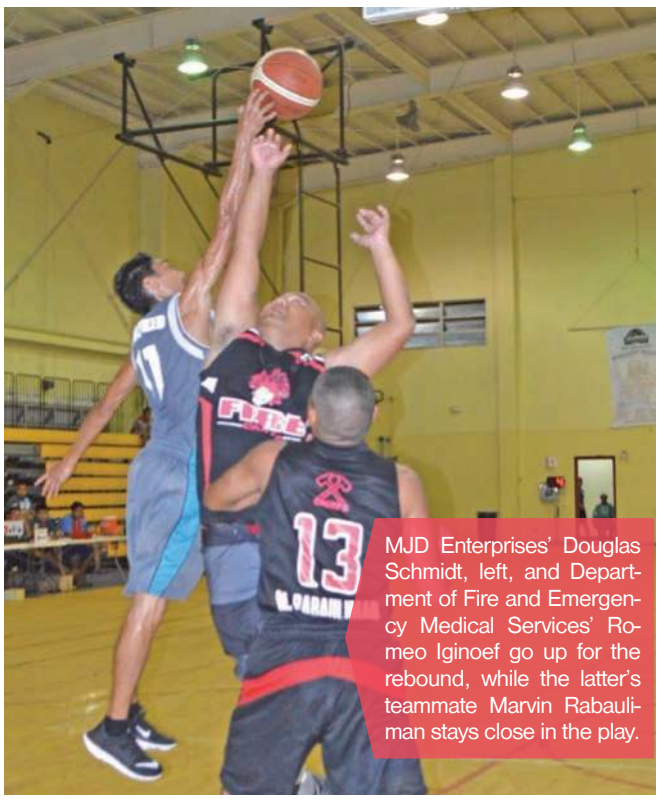
PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MJD Enterprises' Douglas Schmidt, right, drives against a Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services player during their title game in the 2016 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League early this month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. MJD won, 86-73.

A Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services player, left, battles MJD Enterprises' Douglas Schmidt for the rebound.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services' John Santos dribbles past MJD Enterprises' Matt Duenas.

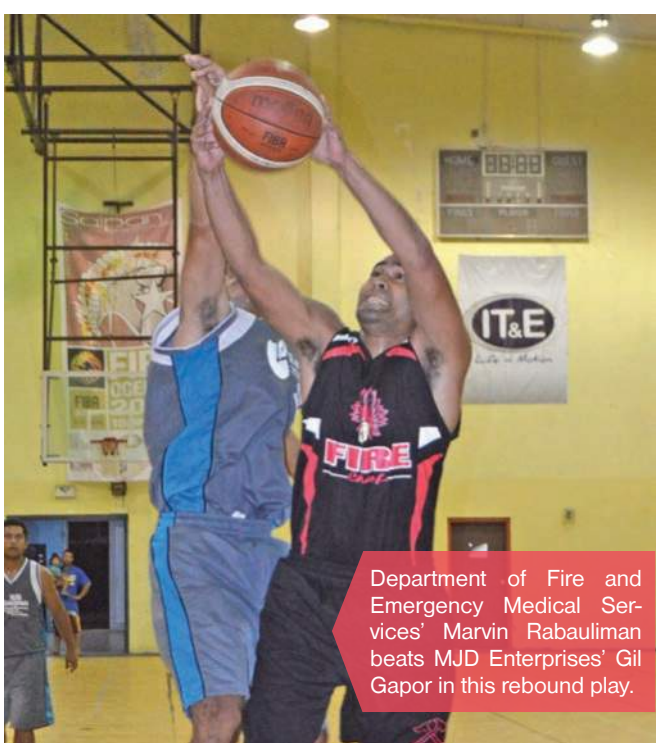
Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services' Marvin Rabauliman holds on to the shorts of MJD Enterprises' Matt Duenas.



MJD Enterprises' Douglas Schmidt, left, and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services' Romeo Iginoef go up for the rebound, while the latter's teammate Marvin Rabauliman stays close in the play.

MJD Enterprises' Jorge De Guzman drives against Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services defenders.

MJD Enterprises' Dan Barcinas dishes the ball to Jack Lizama, not in the picture, for the easy layup.



Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services' Marvin Rabauliman beats MJD Enterprises' Gil Gapor in this rebound play.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services' Romeo Iginoef collars the rebound, while MJD Enterprises' Gil Gapor tries to sneak in from behind.

Serena cruises, Wozniacki bows out at Wimbledon

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Sports

Baez grand slam lifts Cubs past Reds in 15

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CNMI vs Guam for first finals seat

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI will battle Guam for the first finals berth in the Inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic after the latter crushed Kosrae, 15-2, in the penultimate preliminary game last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Guam finished the round-robin prelims with a 2-1 record for second place behind the unbeaten CNMI All-Stars (3-0). Kosrae placed fourth with its 0-3 card, while Palau was ranked third after earning a 1-2 mark. The CNMI-Guam tiff for the first finals seat will be played today at 2pm. Kosrae and Palau, on the other hand, will collide in a knockout out game at 6:30pm with the winner facing the loser of the Guam-CNMI match for the second and last finals ticket tomorrow at 10am. The championship game will also take place on Friday at 4pm.

Guam moved a win away from advancing to the title match after dominating Kosrae in the preliminary game.

Pitcher Mike Concepcion towed Guam to victory, as he

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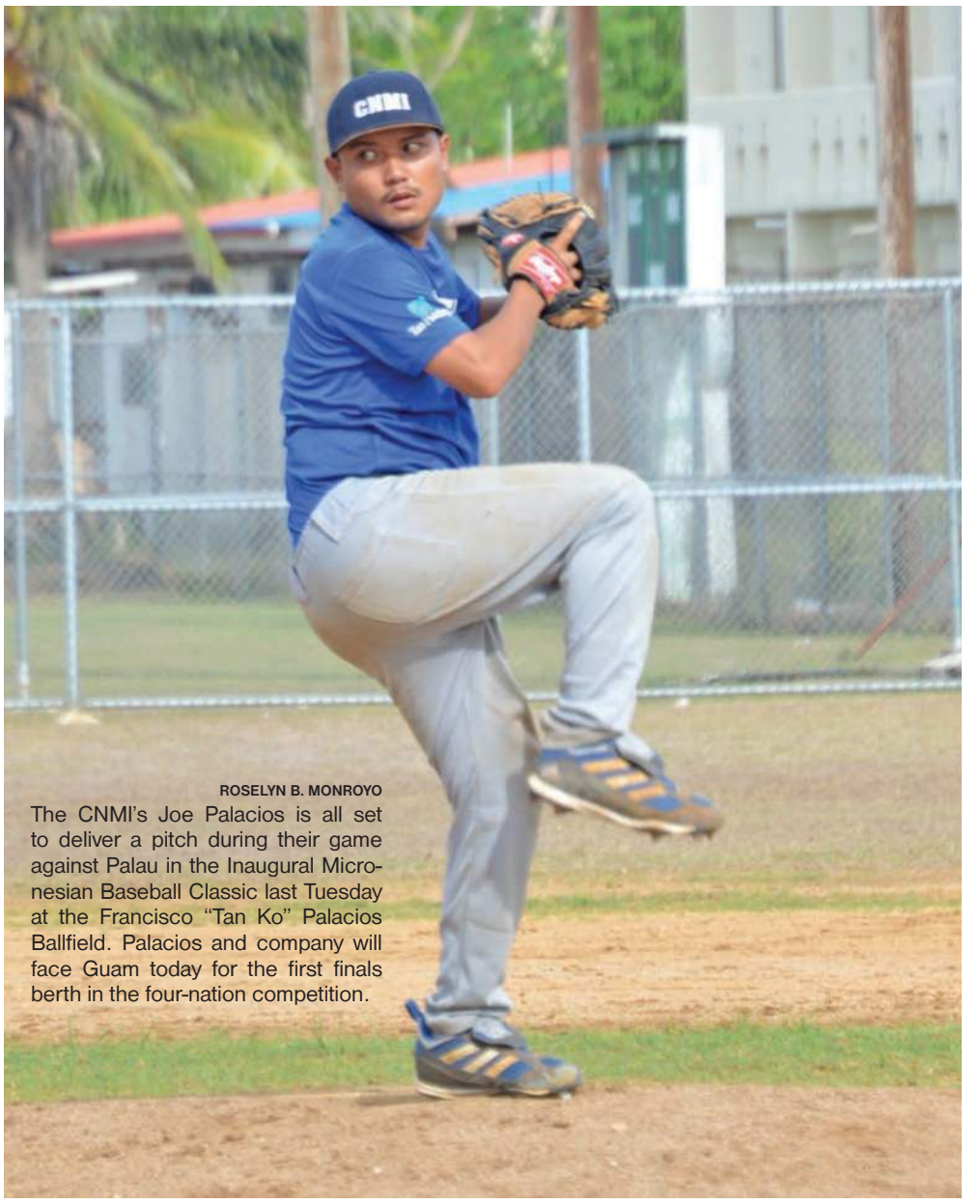

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Joe Palacios is all set to deliver a pitch during their game against Palau in the Inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. Palacios and company will face Guam today for the first finals berth in the four-nation competition.

Lee still in contention in Fiji

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee, seen here stretching for a return in a local tournament, is in the quarterfinals of both the singles and doubles events in the 2016 Oceania Open Junior Championships in Fiji.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It was a good Wednesday for the CNMI's Carol Lee as she won both her Round of 16 matches in the 2016 Oceania Open Junior Championships in Fiji.

The fourth-ranked Lee first prevailed in the singles event against Japan's Yuna Ukita in their morning match, getting the victory after only two sets. Thought she swept her No. 14 seed opponent, Lee had a tough time against Ukita in the opening set, pulling off a 7-5 win. In the second set, Lee dictated the tempo of the match early for an emphatic 6-0 triumph.

With the win, Lee advanced to the quarterfinals against another Japanese player in Yuna Ohashi, who eliminated her compatriot and wild card entry Hiroka Furuya, 6-2, 6-2, in the second match in the lower half of the bracket.

In the two other games in Lee's group, the winners were Australia's Madison Bishop and Japan's Misaki Kobayashi. The No. 6 seed Bishop downed New Zealand's Janvhi Clark, 6-4, 6-2, to set up a quarterfinal tiff against Kobayas, who pulled off an upset against the second-ranked Claudia Ng of Hong Kong, 6-3, 6-2.

Completing the quarterfinals cast were upper bracket Round of 16 winners Kaitlin Staines of Australia, New Zealand's Stella Cliffe, the U.S' Sara Tsukamoto, and Japan's Marie Shindo. Staines won over Hong Kong's Sophie Leong, 6-0, 6-3, to arrange a Round of 8 meeting with Cliffee, a 6-1, 6-2 winner over Palau's Ayana Rengiil. Tsukamoto also

See LEE on Page 26

Major, Junior League All-Stars bounce back

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior and Major All-Stars regained their bearings after winning their respective matches in Taiwan and Korea yesterday.

The Junior All-Stars eked out a 2-1 victory against the Philippines in the 2016 Asia Pacific Regional Championships in Pintung to recover from their 0-14 debut loss to the host country last Tuesday afternoon.

Spencer Dickinson and Dai Podziewski scored the two runs for the Commonwealth and the former was also the starting pitcher for the squad, working the mound until the fourth inning. Jode Reyes relieved Dickinson. No other details of the CNMI-Philippines game were available at press time.

Dickinson, Podziewski, and Reyes are joined on the team by Dennis Cabrera, Tyrese Camacho, Vicente Camacho Jr., Justin Celis, Aven Evangelista, Angel Iguel, Philip Kapileo, Pedro Maratita, Ignacio Mendiola, Joe Tudela, and Arby Yaguel. Manny Evangelista is the squad's manager, while Mike Cruz and Vicente Camacho are the coach and assistant, respectively.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Spencer Dickinson, left, scored in the CNMI's 2-1 win over the Philippines yesterday in the 2016 Asia Pacific Regional Championships in Taiwan.

The group arrived in Taiwan early Tuesday morning and participated in the 5:30pm opening ceremony before challenging the home team in the 6:30pm match. With two matches down, the CNMI Junior League All-Stars have three games left with the first one against China today and the last two versus Hong Kong (Friday) and India (Saturday). The Top 2 teams in the six-squad field after the round-robin play will move into in the finals and fight for the rights to represent Asia Pacific in the World Series.

Meanwhile, the CNMI Major All-Stars snapped their three-game losing streak with a 19-4 spanking of Indian yesterday at the Jangchung Stadium in Seoul.

However, the lopsided win

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